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Colonial Reports

Sarawak

1950



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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

SARAWAK

for the year

1950.

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CONTENTS

PART I

| | <i>Page</i> |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Review of 1950 | 1 |

PART II

Chapter

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Population | 7 |
| 2. Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation, Co-operative Societies | 10 |
| 3. Public Finance and Taxation | 16 |
| 4. Currency and Banking | 25 |
| 5. Commerce | 27 |
| 6. Production | 36 |
| 7. Social Services | 50 |
| 8. Legislation | 80 |
| 9. Justice, Police and Prisons | 82 |
| 10. Public Utilities and Public Works | 95 |
| 11. Communications | 104 |
| 12. Control and Development of Lands | 114 |
| 13. Science and Arts | 118 |

PART III

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Geography | 126 |
| 2. History | 131 |
| 3. Administration | 135 |
| 4. Weights and Measures | 138 |
| 5. Newspapers and Periodicals | 139 |
| 6. Bibliography | 140 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

| | <i>Facing page.</i> |
|---|---------------------|
| Astana, Kuching | Cover |
| Arms of the Colony of Sarawak | 1 |
| A view of Miri | 2 |
| An Iban Woman | 4 |
| River front scene, Kuching | 8 |
| Checking in the Customs godown, Kuching | 12 |
| Chinese jar-makers | 18 |
| A burial jar of a Sea Dayak, Saratok River, Second Division | 22 |
| Young Malay Fisherman | 28 |
| Dayak women near Saratok | 30 |
| Fort Margherita, Kuching | 32 |
| Bugis fishermen | 38 |
| The fishing village of Buntal near Kuching | 42 |
| Inspection of the fishing nets | 46 |
| Re-building of Miri | 52 |
| A giant ray caught at sea off the Sarawak River | 56 |
| The Round Tower, Kuching | 60 |
| Land Dayaks | 62 |
| A model boat | 66 |
| Party circling Satang Island in "Semah" fertility ceremonies, 1950 | 70 |
| A giant rock cod | 74 |
| Group of young Malays | 84 |
| Drying fishing nets | 88 |
| A group of Kenyahs | 90 |
| Malay dancing | 92 |
| Five Selakan Land Dayak girls | 96 |

ILLUSTRATIONS.—(*Continued.*)

| | <i>Facing page.</i> |
|---|---------------------|
| Excavating in the Bungoh caves at Bau ... | 98 |
| A Malay couple ... | 100 |
| Rear view of a giant ray ... | 106 |
| Chula, last of the Serus ... | 110 |
| Jars containing human bones ... | 112 |
| A view of Kuching river ... | 116 |
| Chinese jar in the Sarawak Museum ... | 120 |
| Berawan wood carving—Berawan pole carving ... | 122 |
| Bottle stopper—A man's hairpin ... | 124 |
| Kenyah girl and baby ... | 128 |
| A typical village landing place and bathing pool on the Akar River ... | 132 |
| Temonggong Tama Weng Ajong, M.B.E. ... | 136 |
| Museum acquisitions ... | 140 |

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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Review of 1950.

The year 1950 was a turbulent one for South East Asia and the Far East as a whole. It saw continued strife and political unrest in Vietnam and Malaya and unsettled conditions persisted in many territories surrounding Sarawak. Little success attended sustained efforts to establish good working relations with the People's Republic of China, and actual warfare, on an immense scale, broke out in Korea in June between the forces of the United Nations and those of North Korea. By the end of the year, the forces of the Peking Government were also heavily committed against the United Nations and in support of the original aggressor.

The war in Korea quickly brought about its economic complications for Sarawak as well as its international political repercussions. The price of rubber and other strategic raw materials, already high enough to cause a serious rise in the cost of living in Sarawak, rose rapidly during the latter half of the year. There was every appearance of universal prosperity, and revenue figures soared, but considerable hardship was felt by all those earning fixed salaries and wages.

When the Estimates for 1950 were presented, a deficit of \$2,341,171 was anticipated but largely as a result of the greatly increased revenue from the export duty on rubber, there is every reason to expect that the actual surplus will now be in the region of 14 million dollars. This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1950 falling short of the amount originally provided by approximately \$2,600,000 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$13,500,000. It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year the General Revenue Balance will amount to approximately 23 million dollars.

The aggregate value of Sarawak's external trade for 1950 was \$663,917,195 as compared with \$297,598,019 for 1949 and \$78,415,599 for the last pre-occupation year of 1940. Total exports including both crude and refined petroleum, exceeded imports by over 85 million dollars.

Mr. Anthony Foster Abell, C.M.G., was installed as Governor and Commander-in-chief in Kuching on April the

4th, and during the year he has travelled extensively throughout the country.

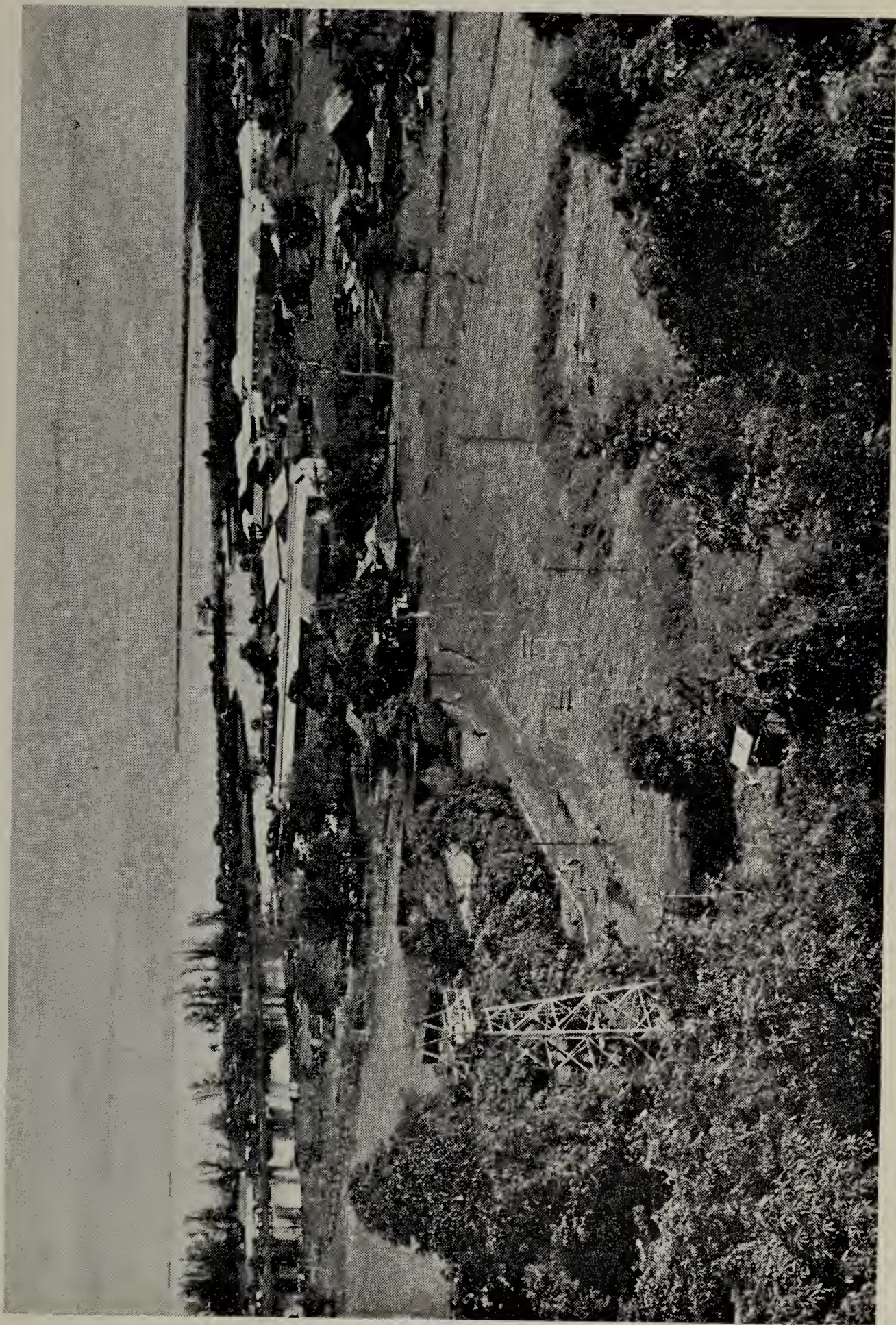
In September, Kuching's modern new Airport was officially opened, and Malayan Airways Limited are now running a thrice-weekly schedule between Singapore and Kuching. Kuching Airport has an all-weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide, and provides full technical and navigational aids in accordance with the requirements of an International Airport.

The British Council posted a Regional Director to Sarawak and in March opened an office in Kuching. As working premises, the Government of Sarawak provided the public Reading Room in the grounds of the Sarawak Museum, and the British Council took over the administration of the Reading Room and of the general reading matter of the Sarawak Library. Books on the history, geography and peoples of Borneo and neighbouring territories were retained in the specialist reference Library of the Museum. The British Council has presented many valuable books to Sarawak during the year, including 200 volumes in Chinese, mostly translations of European classics. The Library now comprises 6000 volumes and membership has increased rapidly especially among student readers. By the end of 1950 a new Reading Room was ready to be opened in Sibu in premises lent by the Methodist Mission and equipped from British Council funds and generous local contributions.

Towards the end of the year, the Government made provision for the wide expansion of its Information Services during 1951, and plans to this end are already taking shape.

While the pattern of legislation in the Colony continued along the lines of reform and amendment characteristic of previous years, one feature of the year's legislative programme was the number of amending Ordinances concerned with public security; and in fact a majority of the sixteen amending Ordinances enacted during the year were of this nature, affecting such subjects as registration of aliens, sedition and undesirable persons.

Considerable progress and advance was made during the year in the sphere of education. The school population rose from 35,800 in 1949 to 39,423 by the end of 1950. The increase in the number of girls attending school continued to be encouraging and the number of children of the indigenous peoples who entered schools again rose sharply.



A view of Miri.

The standard of staffing in all types of schools showed a marked improvement over previous years, both in the numbers and qualifications of teachers, and the appointment of the first Woman Education Officer in 1949 enabled various improvements to be made during 1950 in the educational facilities for women and girls.

During 1950, 27 new Local Authority schools were opened, and the general enthusiasm for education shown by rural communities is a powerful factor in the gradual educational advance.

Despite the difficulty in obtaining trained staff or even staff with the basic educational qualifications necessary to profit from training, the Medical and Health Department has made important progress during the year.

The full travelling dispensary scheme of sixteen travelling units was in operation from January when the fourteen additional boats commenced work. The year's performance of these units has been very satisfactory and their regular penetration into areas previously untouched by medical services has been of great benefit. During 1949, total attendances at the two travelling dispensaries then operating numbered 36,045. The preliminary figures of total attendances at the sixteen travelling dispensaries during 1950 is 164,778.

The Agricultural Department has continued throughout the year its valuable efforts to increase the quantity and quality of Sarawak's produce and livestock.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Four years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with lalang (*Imperata* spp.), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The Land Dayak group-farming scheme at Paya Megok some 27 miles from Kuching which was started in 1949 has

made excellent progress and is full of promise. The main project of the scheme is intensive production of padi but the establishment of a prosperous and contented rural community based on sound established systems of intensive farming is also an important aspect which has made great headway. A further aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery both for cultivation and irrigation.

During the year a small modern mechanised rubber processing factory was established by the Department of Agriculture in an important area of smallholding rubber about 12 miles from Kuching. The object of the project is to collect latex from the small-holder and take processing and marketing entirely out of his hands. Factories of this nature should do a great deal to improve the generally poor quality of sheet exported from Sarawak and great importance is attached to this scheme.

A Staff Training School has been established near Kuching and as further staff are trained the Department's activities are gradually being extended in parts of the country other than the area around Kuching.

Timber production rose during 1950 to 79,054 tons, of which 45,486 tons were exported as compared with a total production of 70,136 tons in 1949 of which 39,835 tons were exported. Australia remained the principal importer of Sarawak timbers, followed by Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Exports to the United Kingdom rose sharply during the year.

Development and Welfare Projects.

The table below shows the projects which were initiated or in operation during 1950, with the amounts spent on each. As the 1950 accounts have not yet been finally closed, the totals are provisional only. It should be emphasised that, though against many schemes no expenditure is shown from local funds, in a number of them, notably the Agricultural and Public Works schemes, a considerable proportion of the staff operating the projects is paid from Colony revenues. As such staff are not employed wholly on any one scheme, it is not practicable to show their salaries and allowances against the scheme. In addition, maintenance of roads constructed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds has been borne on the Colony's revenues, but here again no sum is shown, as expenditure has been met from the ordinary maintenance votes.



An Iban woman.

| Name of Scheme. | Number. | Amount spent from initiation to end of 1950. | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|
| | | From C.D. & W. Funds. | From Local Funds. |
| | | \$ | \$ |
| AGRICULTURE. | | | |
| 1. Soil Survey | D.816 & D.816A. | 66,698 | — |
| 2. Improvement of Rubber Industry | D.826. | 23,022 | — |
| 3. Cultivation of Cash Crops ... | D.954. | 44,485 | — |
| 4. Mechanical Cultivation ... | D.973 & D.973A. | 66,485 | — |
| 5. Wet Padi Cultivation—Paya Megok | D.1208 & D.1208A. | 148,337 | — |
| 6. Cocoa Cultivation | D.1424. | 3,902 | — |
| 7. Department of Agriculture Staff Training School ... | D.1519. | — | — |
| EDUCATION. | | | |
| 8. Batu Lintang Teachers Train- ing Centre & School ... | D.839 & D.839A. | 342,684 | 36,584 |
| 9. Rural Improvement School, Kanowit | D.838. | 191,071 | — |
| FISHERIES. | | | |
| 10. Fisheries Survey | D.837 & R.209. | 16,417 | — |
| GEOLOGICAL. | | | |
| 11. Geological Survey | D.950, D.1109 & D.1109A(/). | 417,761 | — |
| 12. „ „ | D.1191. | — | — |
| MEDICAL AND HEALTH. | | | |
| 13. Travelling Dispensaries ... | D.830. | 352,954 | — |
| 14. Malaria Survey | R.158, R.158A, R.158C & R.158D(''). | — | — |
| POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS. | | | |
| 15. Installation of Telecommuni- cations Service, Kuching Airfield | D.1117. | 175,765 | — |

PUBLIC WORKS.

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| 16. | Communication-Roads | ... | D.1076. | 373,970 | — |
| 17. | Kuching Airfield | ... | D.913 & D.913A. | 561,472 | — |
| 18. | Preliminary Surveys for secondary roads | ... | | — | 52,995(*) |
| 19. | Port Development | ... | D.1273. | 31,384 | — |
| 20. | Buildings | ... | D.1430. | — | — |
| 21. | Sibu Airfield | ... | D.1542. | — | — |

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY.

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| 22. | Sociological Research | ... | R.270. | 62,722 | 30,866 |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|

FORESTRY.

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|---------|--------|---|
| 23. | Forestry Development | ... | D.1120. | 27,347 | — |
|-----|----------------------|-----|---------|--------|---|

CO-OPERATION.

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--------|
| 24. | Co-operative Development Plan | | | — | 98,498 |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--------|

SOCIAL WELFARE.

| | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----|--|---|--------|
| 25. | Kuching Boys' Home | ... | | — | 38,973 |
| 26. | Social Welfare Staff | ... | | — | 8,010 |

(*) Joint scheme for North Borneo and Sarawak.

(') Joint scheme for North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei administered by North Borneo.

(/) Expenditure incurred from local funds; eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W. Funds if subsequently included in formal approved scheme.

PART II

CHAPTER 1.

Population.

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayas, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

| <i>Cultural group.</i> | <i>Population in 1947.</i> | <i>Percentage of total population.</i> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| European | ... 691 | 0.1% |
| Malay | ... 97,469 | 17.9% |
| Melanau | ... 35,560 | 6.5% |
| Sea Dayak | ... 190,326 | 34.8% |
| Land Dayak | ... 42,195 | 7.7% |
| Other Indigenous | ... 29,867 | 5.5% |
| Chinese | ... 145,158 | 26.6% |
| Other Non-Indigenous Asian | ... 5,119 | 0.9% |
| | <hr/> 546,385 <hr/> | <hr/> 100.0% <hr/> |

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogenous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

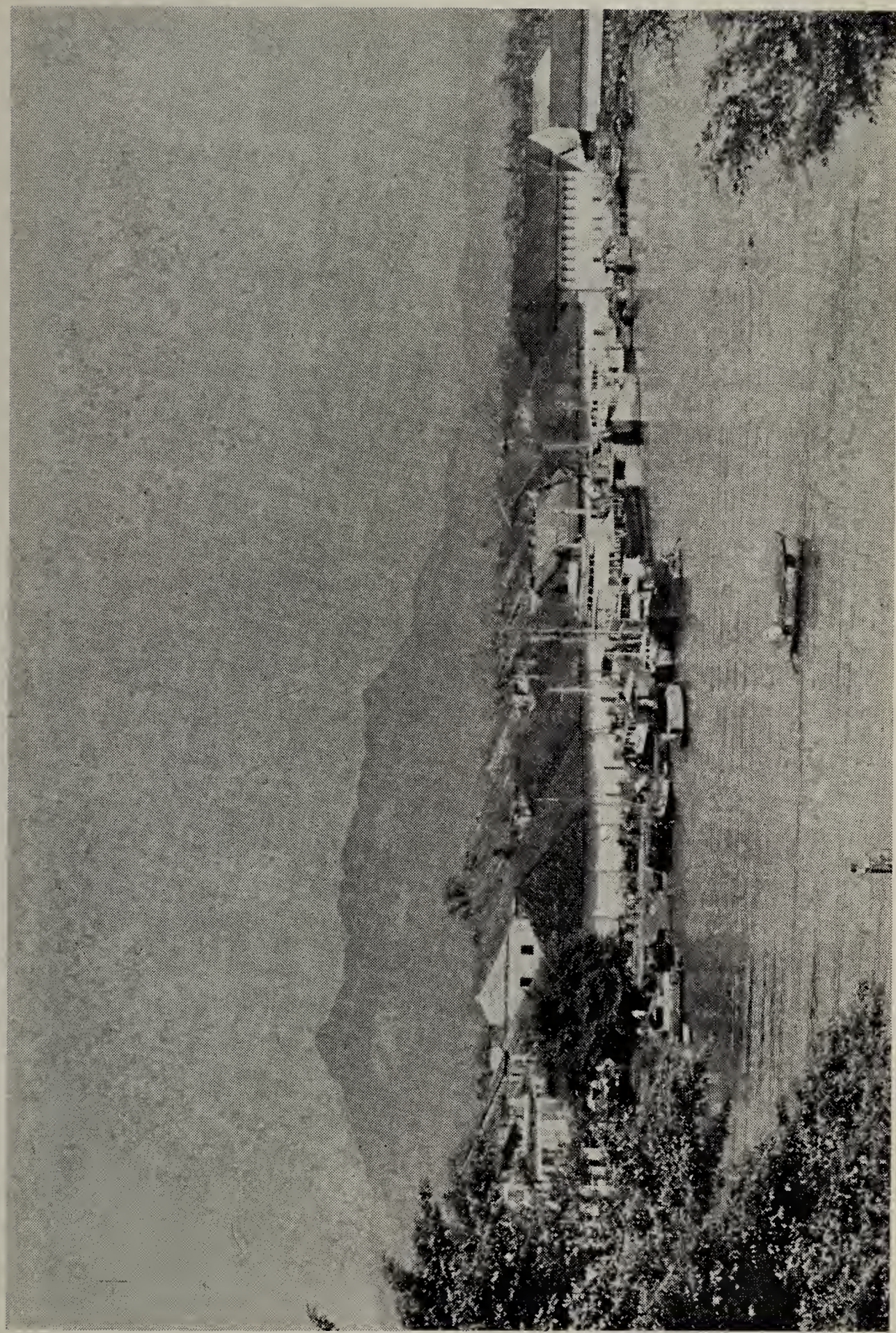
The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and the Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

IMMIGRATION.

Control was considerably improved during 1950 owing to the increased efficiency of the Immigration Department, as a result of the appointment of an Assistant Immigration Officer and a Passport Officer in Kuching last year. The issue of immigrant landing permits for permanent entry into Sarawak



River front scene, Kuching.

was reduced to a minimum. Control of travellers by land, especially in the First Division, between Sarawak and West Borneo, continues to be a problem incapable as yet of satisfactory solution, owing to the physical impossibility of patrolling the whole border and to the ease with which illegal immigrants may, if they wish, avoid the checking posts at Serian, Bau and Lundu.

Owing to the large profits to be gained by smuggling rubber, copra and pepper out of West Borneo into Sarawak, there was a considerable increase during 1950 in the small craft trading between Indonesian and Sarawak ports. Every effort was made to control the temporary entry of merchants masquerading as crew on board these vessels.

Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri.

Migration on and from Sarawak during 1950 was as follows :—

| <i>Race.</i> | | <i>Immigrants.</i> | <i>Emigrants.</i> |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------|
| Chinese | ... | 3,913 | 3,382 |
| European | ... | 1,121 | 1,011 |
| Malay | ... | 462 | 396 |
| Sea Dayak | ... | 494 | 694 |
| Melanau | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Land Dayak | ... | 0 | 1 |
| Other Indigenous | ... | 13 | 209 |
| Other Asian | ... | 398 | 472 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | 3,802 | 6,166 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |

There is a constant interchange of labour in the oilfields area between Miri in Sarawak and Seria in Brunei, but no reliable statistics are available. Apart from this there was no importation of recruited labour into Sarawak during 1950.

CHAPTER 2.

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisation, Co-operative Societies.

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting rice. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupations of the Chinese; they are to a large extent rubber planters. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The trade of the country is, except for a few European importing firms, in the hands of the Chinese.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., which employs a total of approximately 2,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

No entirely reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available; hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but, taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

Conditions of labour improved slightly during 1950, and there were no disputes of importance. The number of persons employed directly and indirectly in the timber trade increased

with the general expansion of the trade. The tremendous rise in the price of rubber brought little increase in the wages of tappers on estates, the reported rates at the end of the year being about \$1.55 a day whereas contract tappers on small holdings could earn up to \$200 a month. Wages in the sago industry dropped to \$2.00 a day. Basic rates in the Oilfields remained unchanged at \$2.26, \$3.02 and \$4.64 for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour, but the cost of living allowance was raised. The cost of living generally has risen greatly throughout the country during 1950.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also Protector of Labour, and District Officers are Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provide protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended during the year, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly labour returns from employers.

The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting the recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

A new labour Code will be promulgated shortly. The number of registered Trade Unions increased during 1950 from eleven to eighteen. The largest, the Kuching Wharf Labourers' Union, with some 302 members, continued to develop satisfactorily..

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on the 1st April, 1950 and two agreements were made under it.

Co-operative Societies.

The Co-operative Development Department, which was opened under the name of the Co-operative Societies Department in 1949, continued to expand. Staff was increased, with emphasis being placed upon training; the school for Probationers in Kuching continued and two men passed through a course at the Ceylon School of Co-operation while one officer studied audit procedure for a short time in Malaya. Particular attention was given to the training of Societies' office-bearers in Kuching and 22 attended short courses in Kuching. The number of registered Societies rose from 24 at the end of 1949 to 63 at the end of 1950 and no Society was liquidated. The audit and supervision of registered Societies and formation of new ones laid a heavy strain upon officers of the Department, most of whom were young, insufficiently trained officers, but some welcome relief was supplied by the appointment of an Administrative Officer of the Senior Service to the post of Assistant Registrar.

The 1949 policy of establishing demonstration Co-operatives in selected areas was justified in 1950 by heavy demands in these areas for new Societies, particularly in the Saribas District. In the Kuching and Serian Districts of the First Division Societies increased from 8 to 18; in the Saribas and Kalaka Districts of the Second Division they increased from 6 to 29; and in the Oya-Dalat and Mukah Districts of the Third Division they grew from 10 to 16. Development was not undertaken in other Districts. The following table shows the Societies registered at the end of the year:—

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| (a) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability (known as Rural Credit Societies) | ... | 21 |
| (b) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability (known as Rural Credit Societies) but saving padi only | | 2 |
| (c) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability (known as Urban Thrift and Loan Societies) | | 3 |
| (d) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability saving padi only | | 1 |
| (e) Thrift Societies of limited liability (known as Rural Savings Societies) | | 16 |



Checking in the Customs godown, Kuching.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| (f) Consumer Societies (known as Stores Societies 9 Rural, 1 Urban) | ... | ... | 10 |
| (g) Producers' Processing Societies (3 padi mills, 1 combined padi mill and electric lighting plant, and 1 sago mill) | ... | ... | 5 |
| (h) Hostel Society (a Secondary Society formed by Saribas Co-operatives) | ... | ... | 1 |
| (i) Other Societies (a Chinese Society of fishermen pledged to form a model village, a Chinese Sea-Transport Society, and one Chinese and one Sea Dayak Farming Society) | ... | ... | 4 |

The year 1950 was one of marked progress and increasing confidence in the aims of the Department as the achievements of the earlier Societies became known and demonstrable to the public with whom they came in contact. Propaganda was continued, but it was found that the older Societies were far better advertisements than anything the Department could write or say, and now primary education in the aforementioned Districts in which the Department operates is much less necessary; the emphasis is now upon curbing enthusiasm rather than arousing it.

On the whole there was surprisingly little active opposition to Co-operation. A few Chinese merchants showed their dislike and undoubtedly influenced some Chinese peasants against it, but the Department was not seriously hampered in this respect. Among the Malays there were signs that the small successes already registered among them had almost overcome and discredited the political propaganda of the previous year. Among Government staff it seems that any scepticism that might have existed changed to friendly interest and help, and Heads of Departments and Administrative Officers did much by their assistance to spread confidence in Co-operation among the people. Particularly valuable was a visit made by His Excellency the Governor to Sungai Paku of the Saribas between 15th and 19th October mainly to inspect Co-operatives; he was able to meet and talk with members of Savings, Padi Milling and Stores Societies and of a Farming and an Electric Lighting Society.

Inflation, accompanied by a sometimes locally engineered shortage of certain consumer goods, particularly in sugar and

cigarettes, gave the Department the opportunity to encourage Societies to demonstrate the value of bulk purchase and distribution.

Salaried workers suffered severely from the effects of a rising cost of living. The Sarawak Constabulary organised its own Stores Society which began business in December, but although the Department had tried often to influence other Government employees to form their own Stores Society no progress could be made until the employees of the most important wholesalers of Kuching took a hand, and it is now reasonably certain that a Kuching Co-operative Stores Society for salaried workers will be running in 1951. The three Thrift and Loan Societies for salaried workers with headquarters in Kuching were faced with demands for loans quite outside their means to satisfy, unlike the Rural Credit Societies the members of which, being agriculturists, did not feel much need for loans.

The year opened with hopes of developing Co-operative Farming Societies, but it closed on a gloomy note with virtual cessation by the Department of all propaganda in this respect. There are two Farming Societies in existence: one Chinese, the other Sea Dayak, and both formed in 1949. During the year a number of new applications for assistance were received from groups of Malays and Sea Dayaks but in all cases it was found that land was not readily available and the Department had no option but to withdraw assistance until some practical form of rationalisation of land can be introduced by Government.

Plans for 1951 include consolidation and further development within the six Districts already mentioned, expansion into two new Districts, and exploratory work among Chinese, Malays, Melanaus and Sea Dayaks in two others. Once again emphasis must be upon training of staff; without more and better officers there can be no real progress. It is intended to send two more trainees to Ceylon to undergo the excellent course provided by the Ceylon School of Co-operation and the training of other probationers will be continued in Kuching.

Although progress can be registered for the year, it must be remembered that as yet Co-operation has only touched a very small proportion of the population of the country, and development has been effected in those areas most favourable to it. In order to establish a firm base for development and

expansion, work has been done where it is most acceptable, promises best results and offers the best field for demonstration and not necessarily where it is most needed.

Co-operation has been favourably received by Sea Dayaks wherever it has been possible to operate among them, but so far it has been brought to only the best-educated and progressive. There has been further success among the Melanaus of the Oya-Dalat and Mukah Districts, but it is very slow work requiring much patience and very few of them have yet awakened (as the Sea Dayaks of the Saribas and Kalaka Districts have done) to the economic revolution we are endeavouring to foster. Some progress has been made in a few places among Malays but it is heartbreaking work to arouse many of them from their lethargy and fatalistic acceptance of debt, or to teach them the elements of thrift, self-help and mutual aid. Lack of educated Land Dayaks on the staff is proving an almost insuperable barrier to progress among these people. Although the way of living and behaviour of the smaller groups such as Kayan, Kenyah and Kedayan gives promise of success, it will be some years before work can be commenced among them, even if suitable supervisors can be found in time. Lastly, the very important Chinese agriculturists remain suspicious; at present most of them do not consciously feel the need for Co-operation because of the boom.

CHAPTER 3.

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1949, the original Estimates for 1950 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at 31st January, 1951, are given below :—

| | <i>Revenue.</i> | <i>Expen- diture.</i> | <i>Surplus.</i> | <i>Deficit.</i> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Actual 1949 | 14,673,512 | 16,684,326 | — | 2,010,814 |
| Original Estimates, 1950 | 15,930,739 | 18,271,910 | — | 2,341,171 |
| Revised Estimates, 1950 | 29,425,218 | 15,487,289 | 13,937,929 | — |

When the Estimates for 1950 were presented a deficit of \$2,341,171 was anticipated.

The accounts for the year 1950 have not yet been closed but there is every reason to expect that the actual surplus will be in the region of approximately \$14,000,000.

This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1950 falling short of the amount originally provided by approximately \$2,600,000 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$13,500,000.

It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year 1950 the General Revenue Balance amounted to approximately \$23,000,000.

Revenue.

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :—

| <i>Head of Revenue.</i> | <i>Actual 1949.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Customs | 9,744,382.75 | 9,200,000 | 22,635,792 |
| Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue | 993,727.25 | 1,176,281 | 1,644,117 |
| Fees of Court or Office, etc. ... | 585,059.48 | 838,433 | 530,788 |
| Departmental Reimbursements | 938,943.56 | 922,799 | 895,372 |

| <i>Head of Revenue.</i> | <i>Actual 1949.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i> |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Land | 381,326.16 | 383,150 | 568,339 |
| Forest | 349,814.51 | 317,000 | 387,408 |
| Posts and Telegraphs | 422,163.53 | 372,700 | 759,162 |
| Marine | 140,023.70 | 87,000 | 157,792 |
| Municipal (Outstations) | 252,333.40 | 250,244 | 284,152 |
| Municipal (Kuching) | 222,584.78 | 260,500 | 248,700 |
| Revenue from Government | | | |
| Property | 168,099.43 | 345,962 | 94,003 |
| Land Sales | 34,380.70 | 38,170 | 122,352 |
| Interest | 412,091.90 | 1,241,500 | 979,394 |
| Rehabilitation Loans | 28,580.14 | 247,000 | 52,124 |
| Income Tax | — | 250,000 | 65,723 |
| | 14,673,511.59 | 15,930,739 | 29,425,218 |
| Colonial Development and Welfare Grants | 676,150.03 | 1,221,885 | 2,185,573 |
| TOTAL | 15,349,661.62 | 17,152,624 | 31,610,791 |

Expenditure.

The heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

| <i>Head of Expenditure.</i> | <i>Actual 1949.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Governor | 93,595.32 | 107,932 | 104,359 |
| H.H. the Rajah's Dependants | 125,216.13 | 129,800 | 95,249 |
| Administration | 329,707.80 | 366,765 | 343,478 |
| Agriculture | 215,968.84 | 339,418 | 271,774 |
| Attorney-General | — | 27,745 | 12,002 |
| Audit | 34,842.60 | 26,513 | 25,433 |
| Chinese Affairs | 63,104.45 | 60,755 | 61,643 |
| Clerical Service | 517,707.64 | 798,695 | 756,116 |
| Constabulary | 1,137,995.78 | 1,308,621 | 1,050,723 |
| Co-operation | 33,325.32 | 51,485 | 40,052 |
| Defence and Internal Security | 8,363.75 | 150,000 | 140,911 |
| Education | 328,994.81 | 532,318 | 408,323 |
| Forest | 143,713.10 | 160,303 | 152,303 |
| Judicial | — | 90,437 | 82,059 |
| Kuching Boys' Home | 13,858.63 | 19,611 | 13,745 |
| Landing Grounds | 10,233.88 | 27,400 | 16,527 |
| Land and Survey | 493,595.53 | 634,459 | 602,592 |

| <i>Head of Expenditure.</i> | <i>Actual 1949.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950.</i> | <i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Local Treasuries ... | 202,433.00 | 230,376 | 232,219 |
| Marine ... | 546,416.46 | 528,178 | 657,913 |
| Medical and Health ... | 1,166,057.31 | 1,517,510 | 1,436,200 |
| Miscellaneous Services ... | 3,722,205.71 | 2,264,241 | 2,306,852 |
| Municipal—Kuching ... | 262,271.76 | 347,360 | 481,617 |
| Municipal—1st Division (Bau) ... | 4,774.08 | 6,455 | |
| Municipal—3rd Division (Sibu, Sarikei & Binatang) | 73,401.49 | 92,790 | |
| Municipal—4th Division (Miri) ... | 51,003.41 | 67,790 | |
| Museum and Library ... | 52,430.23 | 47,691 | 47,365 |
| Native Affairs ... | 200,247.12 | 237,590 | 211,561 |
| National Registration ... | 138,750.08 | 131,260 | 145,151 |
| Pension & Provident Fund ... | 984,110.89 | 932,000 | 352,143 |
| Posts and Telegraphs ... | 460,970.47 | 511,843 | 501,220 |
| Printing ... | 246,585.92 | 196,025 | 179,678 |
| Prisons ... | 130,109.41 | 225,476 | 174,803 |
| Public Works Department .. | 1,117,857.61 | 885,971 | 3,320,681 |
| Public Works Recurrent ... | 397,166.99 | 577,910 | |
| Public Works Extraordinary | 2,045,963.86 | 2,926,373 | |
| R. & D. O. 1st Division ... | 119,446.24 | 146,968 | 432,408 |
| R. & D. O. 2nd Division ... | 73,814.86 | 97,297 | |
| R. & D. O. 3rd Division ... | 117,885.77 | 157,380 | |
| R. & D. O. 4th Division ... | 56,561.17 | 63,298 | |
| R. & D. O. 5th Division ... | 28,076.39 | 30,530 | |
| Secretariat .. | 184,659.65 | 159,191 | 155,926 |
| Special Constabulary ... | 19,608.21 | 64,800 | 17,090 |
| Survey of Ships ... | 2,604.97 | 3,953 | 2,384 |
| Trade and Customs ... | 280,571.89 | 301,399 | 324,175 |
| Treasury .. | 173,938.95 | 105,050 | 92,004 |
| Sociological Research ... | 18,692.24 | 14,503 | 13,153 |
| Rehabilitation Loans .. | 147,950.00 | 500,000 | 150,110 |
| War Damage Claims Com- mission—Assessment ... | 14,871.25 | 68,445 | 75,344 |
| Legal ... | 90,093.52 | — | — |
| Marine Police ... | — | — | — |
| Loss on Sale of Investment ... | 2,571.43 | — | — |
| | 16,684,325.92 | 18,271,910 | 15,487,259 |
| Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ... | 1,260,829.45 | 1,221,885 | 1,369,525 |
| TOTAL .. | 17,945,155.37 | 19,493,795 | 16,856,814 |



Chinese jar-makers, Kuching.

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT
31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

LIABILITIES.

| <i>Previous Year.</i> | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----|---------------|----------------------|
| \$ | | | \$ | \$ |
| | Deposits— | | | |
| 1,504,157.61 | Security Deposits | ... | 703,589.37 | |
| 4,541,387.23 | Miscellaneous | ... | 778,107.13 | |
| 451,803.67 | Special Funds | ... | — | 1,481,696.50 |
| — | Current Accounts | ... | ... | 5,461,945.96 |
| — | Joint Colonial Fund | ... | ... | 298,389.28 |
| 1,207,046.07 | Trading Account—Food | ... | ... | 2,125,714.29 |
| | Control Allotments | ... | ... | |
| | London | ... | 251.80 | — |
| 5,833.80 | Local | ... | 6,155.91 | |
| 53,496.33 | Suspense | ... | — | 6,407.71 |
| | General Revenue Balance— | ... | ... | 32,690.10 |
| | Balance as at 1.1.1949 | ... | 13,213,178.60 | |
| | Less Surplus & Deficit a/c. | ... | 2,595,493.75 | |
| | | | — | |
| | | | 10,617,684.85 | |
| | Less Depreciation of Invest- | | | |
| | ments | ... | 683,126.18 | |
| 13,213,178.60 | Balance as at 31.12.49 | ... | ... | 9,934,558.67 |
| <u>20,976,903.31</u> | | | | <u>19,341,402.51</u> |

ASSETS.

| <i>Previous Year.</i> | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|
| \$ | | | \$ | \$ |
| 4,032,612.74 | Cash | ... | ... | 2,915,936.02 |
| 755,970.36 | Fixed Deposits with Chartered | ... | ... | |
| | Bank, Kuching | .. | ... | 650,128.69 |
| 2,185,714.29 | Joint Colonial Fund | ... | ... | — |
| 12,106,562.67 | Investments | ... | ... | 12,612,150.77 |
| 664,840.35 | Investments, Special Funds | ... | ... | 635,630.22 |
| — | Trading Account—Food | ... | ... | |
| | Control | ... | ... | 873,730.13 |
| 849,802.32 | Advances | ... | ... | 790,843.68 |
| 5,645.00 | Imprests | ... | ... | 5,616.21 |
| 35,684.10 | Current Account | ... | ... | 584,990.69 |
| 13,058.21 | Stock—Agriculture | ... | ... | 18,156.85 |
| 233,813.94 | Drafts and Remittances | ... | ... | 190,393.30 |
| 82,377.91 | Remittances between Chests | ... | ... | 63,825.95 |
| 10,821.42 | Suspense | ... | ... | — |
| <u>20,976,903.31</u> | | | | <u>19,341,402.51</u> |

Note :—

A sum of \$611,544.15 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of under issues on the following Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes :—

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----|--------------|
| Scheme No. | D. 804 | ... | \$ 2,211.42 |
| " | " D. 816 | ... | 5,174.84 |
| " | " D. 954 | ... | 1,007.10 |
| " | " D. 973 | ... | 1,507.80 |
| " | " D. 968 | ... | 219.44 |
| " | " D. 944 | ... | 4,624.68 |
| " | " D. 838 | ... | 15,115.44 |
| " | " D. 950 | ... | 23,032.90 |
| " | " D. 1109 | ... | 161,745.83 |
| " | " D. 913 | ... | 141,287.47 |
| " | " D. 830 | ... | 139,840.54 |
| " | " R. 270 | ... | 12,882.62 |
| " | " D. 1076 | ... | 80,893.61 |
| " | " D. 1208 | ... | 14,487.47 |
| " | " D. 837 and R. 203 | ... | 7,512.99 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | \$611,544.15 |
| | | | <hr/> |

Taxation.

The main source of income is Customs Import and Export Duties which comprise approximately three-fourths of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1950 is \$22,635,792.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, milk, coffee, tinned meats, soaps, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1950 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$4,757,004, on petroleum products \$424,330, on textiles and wearing apparels \$1,369,501, on sugar \$396,027 and on alcoholic liquors \$707,604; and Export Duties on rubber \$12,709,097, on sago \$1,001,847, on pepper \$514,787, on copra \$241,041 and on jelutong \$184,902.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES.

(a) *Excise.*

An Excise Ordinance was enacted at the November 1950 meeting of the Council Negri and this will come into force on the 1st January, 1951, prior to which date fees based on excise procedure are charged on the manufacture of matches and certain wines within the Colony.

(b) *Stamp Duties.*

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are :—

| | |
|--|---|
| Affidavits or declarations in writing | \$ 2.50 |
| Agreements or contracts ... | .50 |
| Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ... | 10.00 |
| Bill of Exchange (including cheques on banks) :— | |
| (i) payable on demand or at sight ... | .06 |
| (ii) of any other kind ... | 10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof. |
| Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed | 5.00 |
| Receipts ... | 6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00 |

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax.

The system of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Native Treasuries have been instituted, are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Authorities in full. The “door” tax is equivalent to what is called “hut” tax in other territories, the “door” being the apartment in a Dayak longhouse occupied by a single family. “Head tax” is applicable mainly to Malays

and Melanaus, and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes.

On the 31st December, 1949, the Income Tax Ordinance came into force, but at present tax is charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in the Colony or elsewhere. There should be levied and paid for each year of assessment, upon the chargeable income of every company, tax at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income thereof.

A Trades Licensing Ordinance was enacted at the November, 1949, meeting of the Council Negri and this came into force on the 1st January, 1950. This Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees to be paid by the different categories of business are as follows:—

1. A licence to carry on the business of a
wholesale trader—

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| For the principal or only place of business | ... \$ 400 |
|--|-----------------|

| | |
|---|-----|
| For each subsidiary place of business ... | 200 |
|---|-----|

Provided that, if the person who carries on the business deals or trades only in goods manufactured, made or treated by him at the place of such business, the fee shall be—

| | |
|--|--------------|
| For the principal or only place of business | ... 100 |
|--|--------------|

| | |
|---|----|
| For each subsidiary place of business ... | 50 |
|---|----|

2. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader including importation from places
beyond the Colony—

| | |
|---|-----|
| For the principal or only place of business or where the business is not carried on at any defined premises ... | 150 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|----|
| For each subsidiary place of business ... | 50 |
|---|----|



A burial jar of a Sea Dayak on the Saratok River, Second Division. The jar is an old one, probably 17th century.

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be an importer who carries on a business as a handicraftsman and only imports raw materials for the purposes of his trade or business and not for resale of such raw materials.

| | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----|-------|
| 3. | A licence to carry on the business of a retail trader not including importation from places beyond the Colony, for each place of business | ... | ... | 50 |
| 4. | A licence to carry on the business of a banker (including any branches or agencies) | | | 2,500 |
| 5. | (1) A licence to carry on the business of shipping or air transport in the Colony | ... | | 400 |
| | (2) A licence to carry on the business of shipping in respect of vessels engaged only in the carriage coastwise or in the waterways of the Colony of passengers or cargo | | | 50 |
| | (3) A licence to carry on the business of an agent of a shipping or air transport business which has no place of business in the Colony including any sub-agency in the Colony | ... | ... | 200 |
| | For two or more such agencies | | ... | 400 |
| 6. | A licence to carry on the business of a contractor at any place in the Colony | ... | | 400 |
| Provided that where the total number of persons employed on the contract work at any one time does not exceed 20 then only half the above fee shall be charged. | | | | |
| 7. | A licence to carry on the business of letting taxis or passenger or goods service vehicles for hire, or of a passenger omnibus service— | | | |
| | If three or more vehicles are used in the business | ... | ... | 100 |
| | If two or less vehicles are used in the business | ... | ... | 50 |
| 8. | A licence to carry on the business of a remittance shop | ... | ... | 300 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| 8A. A licence to carry on the business of a barber or men's hairdresser, in respect of each chair | ... | ... | 10 |
|---|-----|-----|----|

Provided that the maximum annual fee for such licence shall be fifty dollars in respect of any one business.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| 9. A licence to carry on any other business | ... | ... | 50 |
| 10. Duplicate licences | ... | ... | 2 |
| 11. Any transfer of a licence | ... | ... | 2 |

Estate Duties.

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.

The revised rates came into force on 1st September, 1948, and are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|----------|
| \$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$ 3,000 | ... | 1 | per cent |
| 3,000 | „ | 1½ | „ |
| 5,000 | „ | 2½ | „ |
| 7,500 | „ | 3½ | „ |
| 10,000 | „ | 5 | „ |
| 20,000 | „ | 7½ | „ |
| 40,000 | „ | 10 | „ |
| 70,000 | „ | 15 | „ |
| Over 100,000 | ... | 20 | „ |

Entertainment Tax.

Entertainment tax is at present charged at the following rates:—

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Where the payment including the amount of the duty— | |
| does not exceed 50 cents | ... 10 per cent. of such payment. |
| exceeds 50 cents | ... 20 per cent. of such payment. |

CHAPTER 4.

Currency and Banking.

Currency.

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since the re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak:—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known, there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1950, there was \$32,210,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$1,797,442 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$1,160,844 in notes and \$636,598 in coins. There was an increase of \$18,707,100 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$732,499 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$732,290 in notes and \$209 in coins, was withdrawn during the same period.

Banking.

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in Kuching, Sibü and Miri and the Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching.

In addition there are three small Chinese Trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank and the Wah Tat Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1950 was 3,385 as compared with 3,068 at the end of 1949. The amount of credit to depositors was \$1,269,542 as against \$982,753 in 1949. During the year deposits amounted to \$738,087 which exceeded withdrawals by \$269,949.

CHAPTER 5.

Commerce.

There are now several firms specializing in the extraction and export of timber; there is a company confining its activities to the production of Cutch, and most important of all there is of course the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.).

Apart from these, the firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony may be said, to fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups:

- (i) The Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) The Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses, i.e., the leading European firms, import either from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries, Proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their Principals, (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese Merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large Rubber Estates that exist and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "Production" e.g., in the Timber business.

The Chinese Merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some indeed act as agency houses, but only on a smaller scale than do the European firms.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources, i.e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the things imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting,

grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago and rubber to other countries are now becoming more frequent.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but generally speaking the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the Chinese Merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars, there are of course, some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash (and some of these are Indian shops), but many are usually to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display; sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, blachan and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associate Chinese firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum, and such piquant items as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, for which they cannot and do not provide themselves, are very few, but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the Dayaks, who may set their hearts on any object outside their natural partiality for gold and silver ornament. The other things they venerate vary with the local tribal custom, and amongst these are a certain type of earthenware jar, large glazed and urnlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns are universally esteemed for utility and prestige.

Very little weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some places, far from the towns, very little more than salt and oils for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great is the variety of goods



Young Malay fisherman.

normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this “small shop” trade.

Certain Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of sago flour for export, and this is in the nature of a specialized trade.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price that the crop, when ultimately produced, would fetch, and during the Japanese occupation it was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of “grub-staking”, and they are again considering it worth their while to do so.

External Trade.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for the year 1950 was \$663,917,195 as compared with \$297,598,019 for the year 1949, and \$78,415,599 for the pre-occupation year 1940.

This total is comprised as follows:—

| | 1950 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Exports | ... \$374,586,491 |
| Total Imports | ... 289,330,704 |
| Favourable Trade Balance | ... <u>\$ 85,255,787</u> |

Trade Balance.

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$85,255,787 does not show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$374,586,491 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$230,308,089.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports in 1950 being \$199,078,712. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleums are included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1950 would be \$54,026,410. This compares with \$2,672,340 for 1949, and is made up as follows:—

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Total Exports | ... \$144,278,402 |
| Total Imports | ... 90,251,992 |
| | <u>\$ 54,026,410</u> |

While the figure of \$85,255,787 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$54,026,410 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into account the production of oil in Sarawak.

Imports.

The declared value of imports for 1950 was \$289,330,704 made up as follows:—

| | | | | as compared with: | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 1949. | 1940. |
| | | | | \$ | \$ |
| Foodstuffs | ... | ... | 32,372,183 | 19,414,554 | 9,770,805 |
| Textiles, wearing apparel, etc. | | | 15,077,527 | 5,342,172 | 2,796,703 |
| Petroleum, crude and refined | | | 202,348,152 | 62,615,909 | 8,844,626 |
| Tobacco | ... | .. | 6,534,368 | 5,003,112 | 2,556,131 |
| Manufactured goods and sundries | ... | ... | 32,998,474 | 17,593,713 | 8,850,609 |
| | | | | <u>\$109,969,460</u> | <u>\$32,818,879</u> |
| | | | | <u>\$289,330,704</u> | |

Throughout the year the only commodities imported on Government procurement were rice and sugar. Flour reverted to commercial procurement in August. Butter, meats, fats and cheese though still on quota were procured through normal commercial channels. Bazaar trade was brisk with the supply of consumer goods adequate. The cost of almost all imported commodities rose steadily, and to a small extent offset the substantial increase in the purchasing power of the populace brought about by the improvement in the price of rubber, the Colony's main industry.

The cost of certain basic foodstuffs, rice, flour and salt showed a reduction compared with that in 1949, while sugar and milk increased. The respective declared values were:—

| | | | | 1950. | 1949. |
|-------|-----|-----|----|----------------|-------------------|
| Rice | ... | ... | \$ | 404.29 per ton | \$ 468.12 per ton |
| Flour | ... | .. | | 400.46 „ „ | 465.84 „ „ |
| Sugar | ... | ... | | 514.87 „ „ | 449.52 „ „ |
| Salt | ... | .. | | 52.02 „ „ | 56.11 „ „ |
| Milk | ... | ... | | 1,295.62 „ „ | 1,269.90 „ „ |

Compared with 1940 values the 1950 values show an advance of:—

| | | |
|-------|-----|------------|
| Rice | ... | 4.24 times |
| Flour | ... | 3.33 „ |
| Sugar | ... | 3.15 „ |
| Salt | ... | 1.07 „ |
| Milk | ... | 2.05 „ |



Some Dayak women near Saratok with their various baskets, winnowing fans and hats used in bringing in, drying and winnowing padi into rice.

Exports.

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1950, \$374,586,491 was composed as under:—

| as compared with: | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | 1950. | 1949. | 1940. |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Petroleum, crude and refined | 230,308,089 | 135,117,901 | 11,446,818 |
| Rubber | 113,941,617 | 31,545,400 | 26,167,140 |
| Sago Flour | 9,277,842 | 4,699,629 | 2,184,937 |
| Pepper | 4,107,166 | 2,025,997 | 362,569 |
| Jelutong | 1,795,932 | 1,182,665 | 775,209 |
| Various guttas | 265,903 | 247,414 | 145,930 |
| Damar | 501,366 | 416,544 | 88,688 |
| Copra | 2,651,451 | 1,676,702 | 70,629 |
| Sundries | 11,737,125 | 10,716,307 | 4,528,427 |
| | <u>\$374,586,491</u> | <u>\$187,628,559</u> | <u>\$45,770,407</u> |

As compared with 1949, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 3,312,823 tons to 4,055,954 tons. It is not possible for the reason explained in paragraph 2 to assess the true value these exports have to the Colony's economy. Crude oil actually won in the Colony amounted to 56,601 long tons as against 56,752 long tons in 1949.

Exports of rubber amounting to 55,475 tons in 1950 compared with 38,901 tons for 1949, but as shown above, the increase in their value is even more marked. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, it is of interest to observe that two next principal destinations on through bills of lading were France and the United States of America.

The increased value of exports of sago flour compared with that for 1949 reflected not only higher prices but also increased quantities. Exports in 1949 of 27,081 tons compared with 38,243 tons in 1950, and of these 19,269 tons and 16,291 tons were shipped on through bills of lading to the United Kingdom and India respectively. 1,440 tons were destined for the United States of America. Bills of lading covered shipments to 16 different countries, under which only 267 tons were exported to the Singapore market as compared with 8,450 tons in 1949 and 38,432 tons in 1948.

Exports of timber, sawn and as logs continued their encouraging trend, being for 1950 44,133 tons valued at \$2,839,725 as against 36,607 tons valued at \$2,018,896 for 1949.

Exports of copra of 4,230 tons in 1950 compared with 3,418 tons in 1949. Pressed jelutong increased from 1,265 tons in 1949 to 1,544 tons in 1950, and other commodities exported showing substantial increases as between the same two years—albeit forming a very small proportion of the Colony's total exports—were hides, skins and matches.

As has previously been noted, Tanjong Mani at the mouth of the Rejang River continued to increase in importance as a shipping centre. In 1949 24 vessels of a total of 55,902 nett registered tons called there to load: in 1950 26 vessels called of 80,701 nett tons. The nett registered tonnage of foreign shipping using Kuching increased from 67,145 in 1949, to 74,868 in 1950.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs revenue for 1950 amounted to \$23,635,522 comprised as follows:—

| | | | | as compared with: | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | 1949. | 1940. |
| Import Duty | ... | ... | \$ 8,869,679 | \$5,879,267 | \$2,252,028 |
| Export Duty | ... | ... | 14,765,843 | 3,721,082 | 1,273,254 |
| <u>\$23,635,522</u> | | | | <u>\$9,600,349</u> | <u>\$3,530,282</u> |

This remarkable rise in revenue resulted mainly from the sustained higher price of the Colony's principal export-rubber.

Tariffs.

In August a "ceiling" of \$18 per pikul was set on the export duty on rubber but with the continued advance in the price of the commodity the limit was raised in December to \$25 per pikul but has since been removed and the duty is again charged according to the ad valorem sliding scale.



Fort Margherita, Kuching.

The Import tariff was also amended during the year raising the rate of duty on imported cigars, cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco; and lowering it on sugar. At the same time the previously imposed duties on canned and preserved meats, fish, fruit and vegetables, and on flour were abolished. Furniture was separately scheduled on the tariff (having previously been included with timber), and a new item was also added—Refrigerators.

Excise.

An Excise Ordinance was entered during the year, to come into force on 1st January, 1951. Meanwhile revenue continued to be collected on excise lines from 2 factories operating under the Monopolies Ordinance. These were the Raga Chemical Works at Pending, which produced a wine fortified by the addition of alcohol, and the Sarawak Match Factory. Revenue collected from the former amounted to \$30,570 and from the latter \$90,900.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

| | 1950. | 1949. | 1948. |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Exports | \$374,586,491 | \$187,628,559 | \$45,770,407 |
| Total Imports | 289,330,704 | 109,969,460 | 32,645,192 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | \$663,917,195 | \$297,598,029 | \$78,415,599 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

| | 1956. | | 1949. | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| | Quantity. | Value. | Quantity. | Value. |
| Beans and Peas ... | 1,053 Tons | \$ 491,794 | 680 Tons | \$ 323,333 |
| Biscuits ... | 1,492 " | 1,432,784 | 926 " | 836,334 |
| Boots and Shoes ... | 31,635 Doz. pairs | 635,166 | 15,912 Doz. pairs | 294,540 |
| Butter and Cheese ... | 57 Tons | 172,322 | 42 Tons | 107,162 |
| Cloth—Cotton, Silk and Woollen .. | 13,397,860 Sq. yards | 8,843,229 | 5,461,842 Sq. yards | 3,476,503 |
| Clothing—Cotton, Silk and Woollen ... | 111,416 Doz. | 1,212,294 | 50,827 Doz. | 504,541 |
| Coffee—Raw and Ground ... | 478 Tons | 836,809 | 492 Tons | 688,801 |
| Crockery and Glassware ... | | 794,032 | | 216,723 |
| Cycles, Motor Cycles and Accessories ... | | 754,971 | | 386,100 |
| Chemicals and Drugs ... | | 2,523,941 | | 1,448,979 |
| Electrical Goods and Apparatus ... | | 1,009,213 | | 459,203 |
| Fish, Dried, Salted and in Tins ... | 2,800 Tons | 3,132,719 | 1,579 Tons | 1,347,697 |
| Flour, Wheat ... | 3,279 " | 1,313,123 | 1,813 " | 844,575 |
| Fruits, Fresh, Dried and Preserved ... | 792 " | 771,962 | 552 " | 464,422 |
| Iron, Steel, etc., and Manufactures thereof ... | | 3,208,646 | | 2,305,275 |
| Machinery ... | | 3,854,690 | | 1,460,332 |
| Milk, Condensed, Sterilized, etc. ... | 1,733 Tons | 2,245,307 | 1,081 Tons | 1,372,767 |
| Motor Lorries, Cars and Accessories ... | | 756,364 | | 541,752 |
| Oil—Lubricating, Kerosene, Benzine, Crude and Liquid Fuel ... | 4,072,802 Tons | 201,892,454 | 3,303,163 Tons | 62,200,005 |
| Petroleum Gas—Natural ... | 1,822,776,000 Cu. feet | 455,698 | 1,663,616,044 Cu. feet | 415,914 |
| Rice ... | 19,331 Tons | 7,815,269 | 11,517 Tons | 5,391,361 |
| Salt ... | 3,357 " | 174,647 | 3,416 " | 191,659 |
| Soap ... | | 522,162 | | 305,192 |
| Stationery and Books ... | | 710,074 | | 475,100 |
| Sugar ... | 6,528 Tons | 3,361,053 | 6,681 Tons | 3,003,278 |
| Tea ... | 103 " | 376,880 | 60 " | 159,858 |
| Twine and Threads ... | | 1,215,667 | | 800,855 |
| Tobacco in tins, Cigars and Cigarettes ... | 1,022,015 Lbs. | 6,273,458 | 784,581 Lbs. | 4,882,718 |
| Vegetables, Fresh, Salted and Preserved ... | 1,189 Tons | 941,791 | 718 Tons | 489,340 |
| Wines and Spirits ... | 249,433 Gals. | 1,611,245 | 122,793 Gals. | 719,717 |

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

| | 1950. | | 1949. | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| | Quantity. | Value. | Quantity. | Value. |
| | | \$ | | \$ |
| Betelnuts (Arecanuts) | 16 Tons | 2,303 | 23 | 3,113 |
| Beeswax | 1 " | 1,665 | 2 | 2,880 |
| Birdsnests, Edible | 10½ " | 51,258 | 17 | 61,493 |
| Canes | ... | 72,915 | | 62,024 |
| Copra | 4,230 " | 2,651,451 | 3,418 | 1,676,702 |
| Damar | 1,508 " | 501,366 | 1,980 | 416,544 |
| Fish—Fresh, Dried and Salted | 100 " | 153,195 | 214 | 268,196 |
| Gutta—Jangkar | 47 " | 51,260 | 26 | 17,038 |
| Jelutong, Raw | 253 " | 158,033 | 399 | 189,730 |
| Jelutong, Refined | 456 " | 833,663 | 460 | 640,124 |
| Jelutong, Pressed | 835 " | 804,236 | 406 | 352,811 |
| Percha | 43 " | 214,643 | 50 | 230,186 |
| Nipah Sugar | 398 " | 118,905 | 153 | 35,028 |
| Oil—Vegetable | 1 " | 1,213 | 1 | 1,021 |
| Crude Petroleum | 2,356,997 | 136,855,336 | 1,768,681 | 72,114,965 |
| Refined Petroleum | 1,698,957 | 93,452,753 | 1,544,142 | 62,002,936 |
| Pepper | 282 " | 4,107,166 | 321 | 2,025,997 |
| Prawns, Dried | 86 " | 224,211 | 77 | 171,104 |
| Rattans | 1,046 " | 207,599 | 1,774 | 289,926 |
| Rubber, Plantation | 55,475 " | 113,941,617 | 38,901 | 31,545,400 |
| Sago Flour | 38,243 " | 9,277,842 | 27,082 | 4,699,629 |
| Timber | 44,133 " | 2,839,725 | 36,607 | 2,018,896 |
| Cutch | 35,369 Cwts. | 1,153,354 | 42,860 | 1,480,257 |

CHAPTER 6.

Production.

AGRICULTURE.

It is estimated that an area of about 13,000 square miles is used for agricultural purposes. This includes land occupied by tree crops and land used for hill padi cultivation. A recent survey has shown that approximately 5,600 square miles of the delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes. There are, however, considerable areas of good swamp padi land in the delta regions. There are small areas of good well-drained soils suitable for tree and shrub crops, particularly in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, but on the whole the soils are very poor judged by normal standards. Favourable climatic conditions do, however, to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils.

The average annual rainfall is 160 inches. In the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the north-eastern half of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Atmospheric humidity is generally very high. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will be about 5 hours' bright sunshine a day.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the development of the country's agriculture by the native farmer working a mixed system of farming rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that a measure of control over the farmer will be necessary if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of what are now generally termed "group-farming" units.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are as follows :—

Padi.

This is the main crop. Before the war Sarawak had to import an annual average of 33,000 tons of rice to supplement her own production. Imports have continued since the war on quotas allocated by the International Emergency Food Committee, the figures for the last four years being :—

| | | |
|------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1947 | ... | 19,272 metric tons, |
| 1948 | ... | 17,525 metric tons, |
| 1949 | ... | 11,517 metric tons. |
| 1950 | ... | 25,000 metric tons. approx. |

Undoubtedly a great incentive to farmers to plant padi has been given by the Government's padi purchase scheme, inaugurated at the end of 1946, when it was announced that Government was prepared to purchase local grown padi and rice at fixed minimum prices of 55 cents per *gantang* of padi and \$1.30 per *gantang* of rice. No rice was in fact purchased, but the padi purchasing scheme proved so successful that it has been decided to continue it in each succeeding year. It has gone some way towards ensuring the cultivator an adequate return for his labour, besides helping to reduce the Colony's dependence on imported rice. Purchases of padi during the four years in which the scheme has been in operation were :—

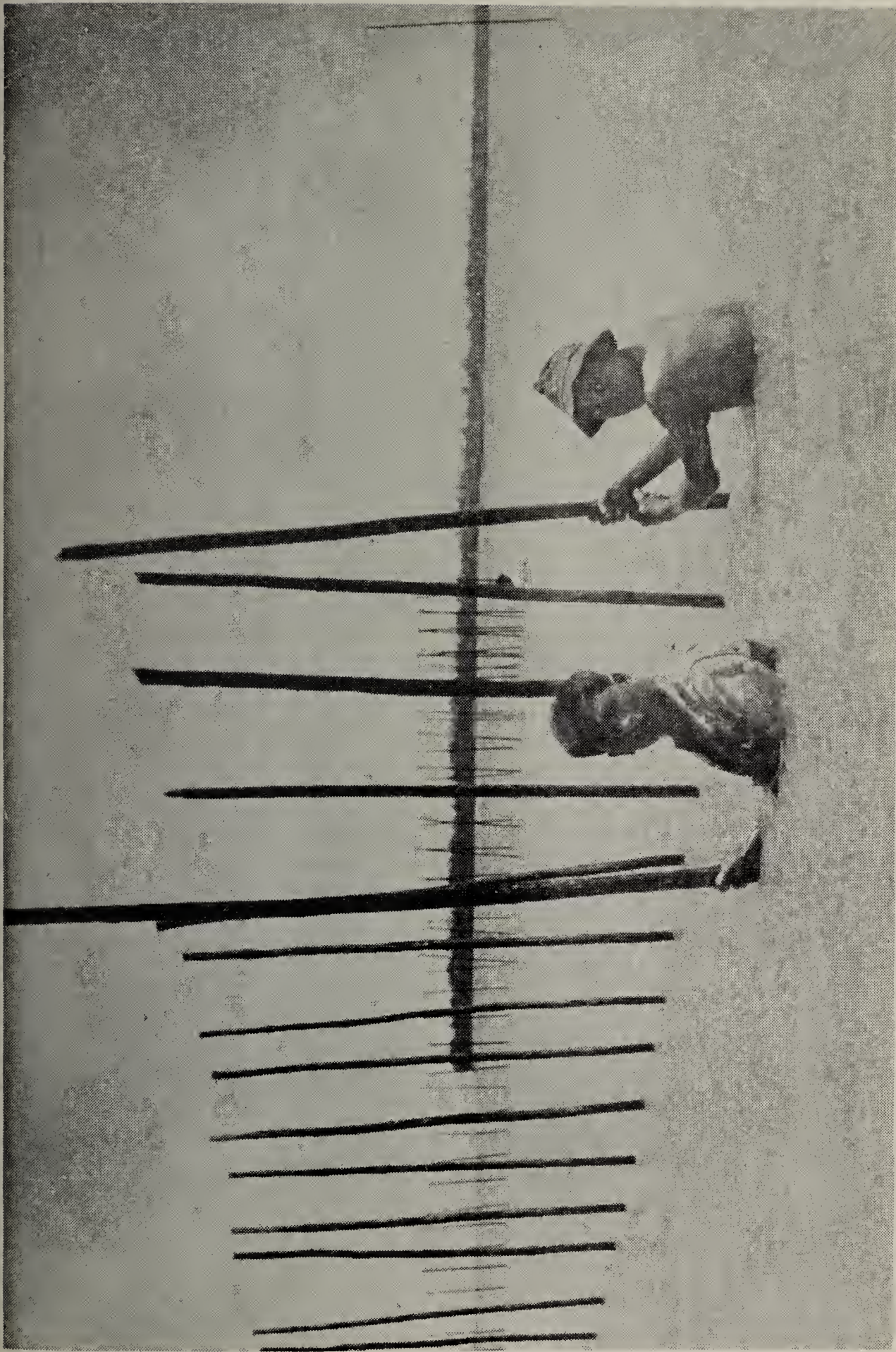
| | | |
|------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1947 | 55,085 piculs | (roughly 1970 tons of rice) |
| 1948 | 72,074 piculs | (roughly 2570 tons of rice) |
| 1949 | 102,333 piculs | (roughly 3180 tons of rice) |
| 1950 | 21,484 piculs | (roughly 830 tons of rice) |

Owing to poor communications and shortage of technical staff, it is not at present possible to make an accurate estimate of the acreage covered by padi, but there is no doubt that Sarawak as a whole is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, its staple foodstuff. A destructive method of shifting hill/dry padi cultivation, which is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi produced; powers to control this practice are now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1949. Swamp/wet padi is cultivated but the methods employed are usually primitive and yields are often low. The 1949-50 crop was generally not good owing to unfavourable weather and exceptionally severe pest damage particularly from rats. The 1950-51 acreage is less than in the previous year as high rubber prices have seriously distracted attention from padi cultivation.

Rubber.—Rubber is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated in 1941 that there are approximately 240,000 acres under rubber of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by native holdings each less than 5 acres in extent. It is possible that the acreage increased during the war. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition which must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. There has been a phenomenal rise in rubber prices during the year and the industry is now extremely prosperous. There is now considerable interest in planting and replanting of rubber with high yielding material and the demand is being met as far as possible by the Department of Agriculture with suitable budwood and clonal seed. In order to guard against rubber being planted on land needed for swamp/wet padi and suitable for that purpose it has again become necessary to control planting by reimposition of certain sections of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance which had been suspended in 1946-

Sago.

It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres used for sago cultivation, the major part being concentrated in the in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available but, taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young, immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. For a time after the liberation production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the plantations were being overworked as a result; the quality of the product too was often very poor. Production is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting. Since the passing of the Sago flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance, 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; on the whole the trade has co-operated extremely well in the matter, and there has been a major improvement in the general quality of sago flour exported from Sarawak.



Bugis fishermen preparing traps, Rejang delta. The Bugis originated in the Celebes and are staunch Mohammedans. There is a large settlement of them in the Rejang.

Pepper.

This was an important export product before the war and the quality was generally good, but most of the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation. Considerable replanting has taken place recently and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines is now equal to the pre-war total. A recent estimate suggests that nearly 900,000 vines are now being cultivated and that the number is still increasing no doubt due to the excellent prices being obtained for the product and the good market prospects. Small quantities of pepper were exported in 1950 and it is expected that in 1951 exports will be back to pre-war level. All the vines are planted in small gardens, mostly less than half an acre in extent and often very much smaller. Unfortunately most of the pepper in Sarawak is still cultivated under a most pernicious system of shifting cultivation but it is hoped that it will be possible to minimise the worst effects with powers available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950.

Coconuts are mainly a smallholder's crop, largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres, though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

Tuba Root (derris) has been cultivated in the past, but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand, but there is still a shortage of suitable planting material.

Gambier was an important product many years ago, but production is now negligible.

Pineapples of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

Tobacco. Small areas are planted by the natives for their own use. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

Coffee is cultivated to a small extent round the villages.

Cocoa is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots recently established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise particularly on the better types of land. About 500 seedlings raised in quarantine in

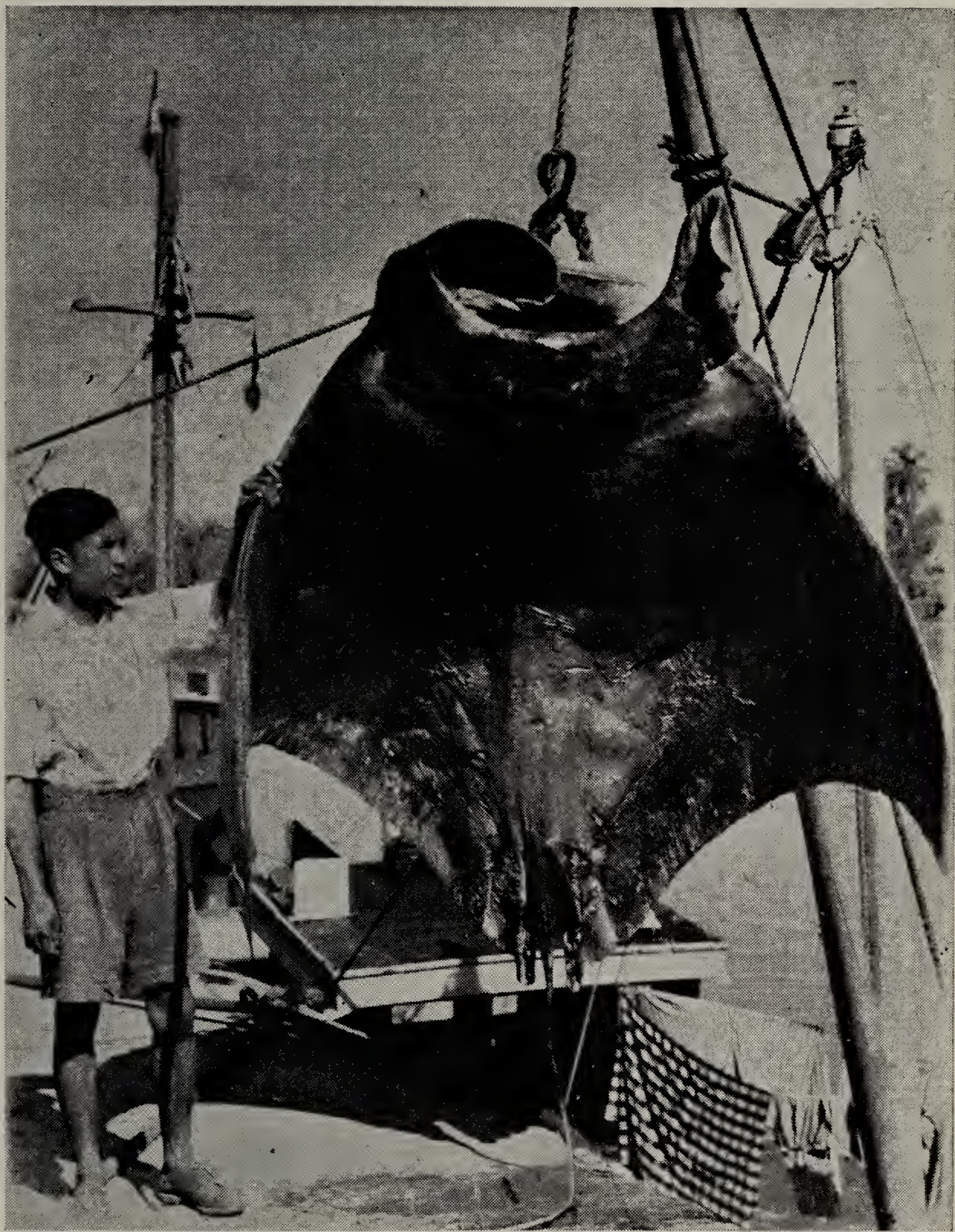
Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast were recently imported by the Department of Agriculture and are being used as the basis of a seed production station.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

So little information with regard to agricultural conditions in Sarawak had been recorded before the war that a great deal of the work of the Department of Agriculture since it came into being in its present form in 1946 has consisted of preliminary surveys and investigational work. But it has now been possible to start some developmental work, in spite of acute shortage of trained and experienced technical staff. Financial assistance for this work is being received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and indeed without this assistance progress would be impossible. In present circumstances it is inevitable that the main projects should be near Kuching, but as the staff situation improves it is hoped to start similar projects in other Divisions.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Four years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with lalang (*Imperata* spp.), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been the distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The Land Dayak group-farming project at Paya Megok some 27 miles from Kuching and which was started in 1949 has made excellent progress and is full of promise. The main project of the scheme is intensive production of padi but the establishment of a prosperous and contented rural community based on sound stabilised systems of intensive farming is also an important aspect that has made impressive headway. An important aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery both for cultivation and irrigation.



A giant ray caught at sea off the Sarawak River, 1950.

During the year a small modern mechanised rubber processing factory was established by the Department of Agriculture in an important area of smallholding rubber about 12 miles from Kuching. The object of the project is to collect latex from the smallholder and take processing and marketing entirely out of his hands. Factories of this nature should do a great deal to improve the generally poor quality of sheet exported from Sarawak and great importance is attached to this scheme.

A Staff Training School has been established near Kuching and as further staff are trained the Department's activities are gradually being extended in other parts of the country besides the First Division.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Animal husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. Some herds of buffaloes estimated at a total of 5,600 head are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields, but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese smallholders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in and around Dayak villages. Schemes for the development of animal husbandry in Sarawak with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund are being prepared. Strict control is now exercised over the import of livestock into Sarawak under the Animal Health Ordinance and recently legislation has been introduced having as its object control of slaughter of cows and female buffaloes suitable for breeding.

FORESTRY.

The Forest Department staff now consists of 113 officers of all ranks, including 4 members of the Colonial Forest Service. The administration is organised on a Divisional basis, with an Assistant Conservator, who is directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge. The Assistant Conservator in charge of the Fourth Division at present also supervises forestry in the State of Brunei.

The forests of the Colony are classed as tropical evergreen rain forest and comprise three principal types :—

Mangrove forest, which occurs mainly in the deltas of the Sarawak and Rejang rivers, and which is chiefly of value as a producer of firewood, charcoal and cutch. In this type also are included extensive stretches of the stemless palm *nipah* (*Nipa fruticans*) which provides thatch and alcohol. The total area of mangrove and *nipah* forests in the Colony is estimated at approximately 460 square miles.

Peat-swamp forest, which occurs along the greater part of the coast and often extends inland for more than 50 miles. The peat-swamp forests cover nearly 5,800 square miles or about 12 per cent. of the total land area. Until recent years they were chiefly valued as a source of *getah jelutong*, the principal ingredient of the chewing gum. The post-war boom in the timber export trade, and particularly the popularity of *ramin* (*Gonystylus* spp.) in the United Kingdom and Australia, has transformed them into the most important timber-producing areas of the Colony.

Inland forest. Although large areas have been devastated by shifting cultivation, approximately 27,800 square miles or 59 per cent. of the total land area still carries natural or very old secondary forest of this type. This forest contains a wealth of species dominated by the family Dipterocarpaceae, the most important timbers being *meranti* (*Shorea* spp.), *kapur* (*Dryobalanops* spp.), *keruing* (*Dipterocarpus* spp.) and *belian* (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*). In addition to timber, forest of this type yields canes, damar, wild rubbers and gutta percha and, at intervals of about four years, large quantities of illipe nuts, which contain a valuable vegetable oil.

Timber production is mainly in the hands of British, Australian and Chinese firms. In 1950, the total output of timber was 79,054 tons, of which 45,846 tons were exported, as compared with similar totals of 70,136 and 39,835 tons in 1949. Australia remained the principal importer, taking 22,763 tons, and was followed by Hongkong with 9,506 tons; but it is noteworthy that exports to the United Kingdom rose from 94 tons in 1949 to 7,238 tons in 1950, mainly as a result of the relaxation of hardwood control in that country.



The fishing village of Buntal near Kuching.

A certain quantity of timber was also sent to Singapore, various Bornean ports, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon. The main source of this timber was the Rejang, which contains one of the few harbours in the country capable of accommodating ocean-going vessels and which has a large hinterland carrying vast areas of rich forest. Owing, however, to dwindling supplies, the further export of the celebrated hardwood *belian* was prohibited towards the end of the year.

Apart from its general duty of the supervision of forest industries, the main task of the Forest Department at present is the selection and reservation of land to be kept under forests in perpetuity, both for the permanent production of timber and other products and for the prevention of erosion and floods. Hitherto, owing to shortage of staff and other reasons, only slow progress has been made, but the work has now been considerably facilitated by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. By the end of 1950, a total of 3,442 square miles had been reserved, but this figure will be more than doubled by the inclusion of other areas now in process of constitution.

Work on the intensive exploration of the Rejang delta, begun in 1949 and carried out in co-operation with other Departments, was completed during the year, and has made possible a complete land utilization plan for an area of some 1,500 square miles. Of this area, approximately 760 square miles will be kept permanently under forest of the peat-swamp and mangrove types. Further large areas to the north of this area are now to be examined.

Forestry research is at present concerned mainly with experimental plantations, with a view to the reclamation of impoverished soils and the rehabilitation of forests degraded by shifting cultivation. Both *mahogany* (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and *ru ronang* (*Casuarina sumatrana*) show considerable promise of success. The latter species is not a timber tree but yields firewood of a very high quality and may therefore be of great value in densely populated localities. It is still considered too early, however, to embark on any large-scale projects of this nature.

For the first time since 1941 it was found possible to devote some time to the training of the subordinate field staff, and a short, practical course in surveying, silviculture and

the identification of trees and timbers was held at Kuching. Eleven Foresters and Forest Guards from various parts of the Colony attended this course, and ten of them succeeded in passing the examinations.

The following statement gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1949-50.

| | 1949. | 1950. |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Revenue ... | \$349,813 | \$389,090 |
| Expenditure ... | \$143,713 | \$141,258 |
| Surplus ... | \$206,100 | \$247,832 |

The expenditure for 1950 quoted above excludes \$27,347 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Export duties on forest produce, collected by the Customs Department, amounted to \$254,714, as compared with \$213,590 in 1949. The chief contributors towards this total were *getah jelutong*, gutta percha and damar.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

The mineral resources of Sarawak comprise oil, gold, coal, antimony, mercury, diamonds, limestone used for lime manufacture and possibly suitable for cement, clay used for bricks and tiles and some types of pottery, building stone, and phosphate. Small deposits of silver, lead, copper, gypsum, and iron ore have been recorded, sapphires are known to have been found and salt is worked by native methods in the interior; aluminium ore was discovered during 1949. The oil-fields of northeast Sarawak and the gold in the west are the mineral deposits that have received the closest examination, but, in common with the other minerals, a large amount of work remains to be carried out before their potentialities are known. Mineral occurrences, particularly of gold, coal, antimony and mercury, are widely reported.

Although little has been published about Sarawak's minerals, they have received attention in the past. Between 1850 and 1900 there appears to have been an energetic search for deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury, and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the Government. Unfortunately virtually none of the information resulting from the work was published and records available are insufficient for

assessing the full extent of the investigations. Minerals have, however, played an important part in Sarawak's development. From 1823, after the discovery that antimony ore had a ready market, they have figured prominently in the country's economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was generally the most important mineral produced and, in the early days, often Sarawak's leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879 inclusive, but after 1887 output declined and became negligible ten years later. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export. The relationship of Sarawak's mineral products to the country's total exports is shown in the table below :

PAST SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION.

| Year. | Value of Sarawak Produce Exported. | Value of Mineral Exports. | Percentage of Mineral exports to exports of Sarawak Produce. | Mineral Royalties paid to the Sarawak Government. | REMARKS. Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first. |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1868 | N.A. | 38,001 | — | N.A. | Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds. |
| 1878 | 809,325 | 83,086 | 10 | 13,333 | Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds. |
| 1888 | 1,322,325 | 118,915 | 09 | 8,889 | Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold. |
| 1898 | 3,089,017 | 323,230 | 10 | 10,177 | Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver. |
| 1908 | 5,732,723 | 1,177,266 | 21 | 77,367 | Gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver. |
| 1918 | 9,221,459 | N.A. | — | 98,109 | Gold, oil, coal. |
| 1928 | 53,302,340 | 39,208,846 | 74 | 770,835 | Oil. |
| 1938 | 23,244,666 | 12,842,134 | 54 | 387,636 | Oil, gold, silver. |
| 1948 | 166,023,615 | 111,820,069 | 67 | 67,320* | Oil, gold, antimony. |

All values given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s. 4d. sterling since 1906.

N.A.=not available.

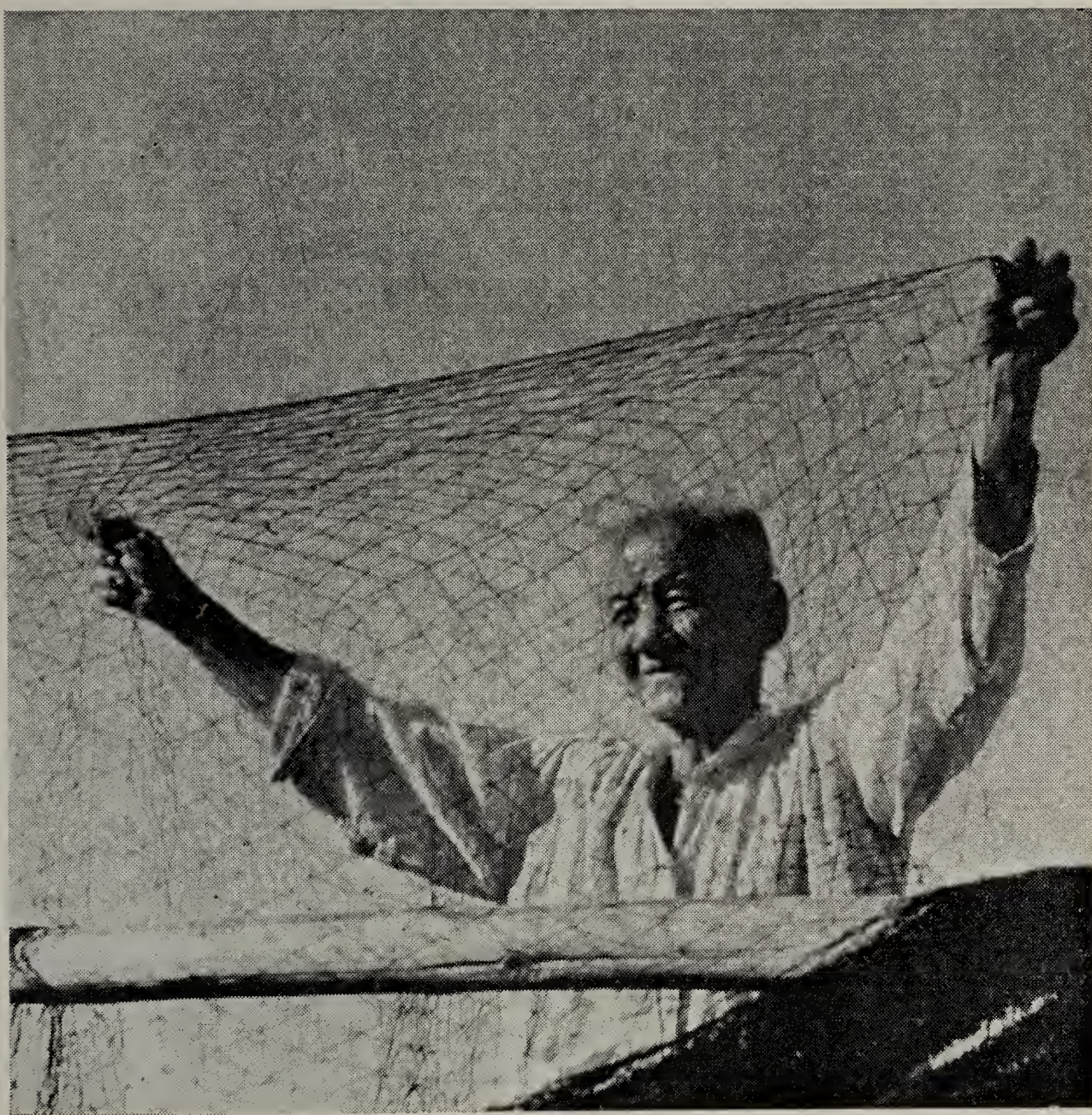
*Estimated oil royalty and mining rents and fees; most of the oil exported during 1948 was produced in Brunei.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1950.

The mineral production in Sarawak during 1950 consisted of oil, being worked on a large scale by modern methods, gold obtained from six Chinese mines, phosphate, coal, and antimony ore. Bricks, tiles, and lime were being produced, and stone was being quarried. The present Government policy is to try to encourage mining, and prospecting licences were granted in West Sarawak for bauxite to The British Aluminium Company Limited and for gold to Anglo-Oriental (Malaya) Limited. Both companies had mining engineers prospecting during the year. Mining leases totalled 24 and covered 3,930 acres of land; no new areas were alienated for mining in 1950. This was the only land alienated for mining, excluding oil rights which are held by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. The mineral output during 1950 is shown below.

SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1950.

| MINERAL | PRODUCTION. | REMARKS. |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Oil | 414,196 U.S. barrels | Exports from Sarawak totalled 4,055,954 long tons valued at \$230,308,089 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene and crude oil. Most of this output was produced from Seria in Brunei. Sarawak Royalty on oil totalled \$103,501. |
| Gold | 1,440 fine ounces | Produced by six mines and valued at \$117,580. Royalty and rents paid totalled \$12,981. |
| Coal | 22 long tons | Worked by Logging and Lumber Limited, Bintulu. |
| Antimony ore | 4 long tons | Obtained by Ban Lee Gold Mining Company, Bau. |
| Phosphate | 643 long tons | Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division. |
| Bricks and Tiles | 1,506,000 bricks 50,000 tiles | Made by four concerns working in the Kuching area, and two in the Miri district. The estimated value is \$186,720. |
| Lime | 923 long tons | Made by three companies in the Kuching area and two at Miri. The estimated value is \$100,792. |
| Stone | 47,900 cubic yards | This stone was quarried in the First Division; only negligible quantities were obtained elsewhere in Sarawak. |



Inspection of the fishing nets.

Oil continues to be by far the most important mineral product of Sarawak. At present it is won only from the Miri field close to the borders of Brunei, where it is worked by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. The search for oil, now being actively pursued over a wide area of the territory, is described below; the account is based mostly on information kindly supplied by the oil company. Geological reconnaissance mapping by oil company geologists has been extensive; in the Tatau district the Tatau, Anap, and Kakus rivers, and their tributaries have been explored, while further inland the Rajang river has been examined between Pelagus and Belaga. In the Likau-Kidurong area, semi-detailed mapping has been in progress. Over much of this country exposures are so poor that surface mapping has to be supplemented by holes sunk by hand-augers. Work of this type has been done mainly in the hills between the Balingian and Penipah rivers. Where insufficient information has been obtained by these methods, shallow core-drilling has been carried out; such work has been in progress in the Suai-Niah area, and, to the northeast, between the Tutoh and Limbang rivers. Two seismic surveys are being made; one is an extension of work across the lower Baram river from the Seria oilfield. The second is an investigation at Bulak Setap, which lies some twenty miles south of Miri.

Indications that oil reservoirs may possibly be found at Bulak Setap and in the Subis river area have been obtained as a result of geological and geophysical investigations. These possibilities are to be tested by deep drilling and this exploratory work, consisting of two holes of about 10,000 feet in depth, will commence in 1951. The magnitude of such undertakings can be realized from the road being built by the company from the coast to Bulak Setap, through the difficult terrain of the Lambir Hills.

The gold output of 1,440 fine ounces in 1950 was obtained by six small Chinese-operated mines in the Bau district of Sarawak. The gold came partly from irregular deposits in limestone, and partly from alluvium. There is room for improvement in the handling of the ore between the workings in the limestone hills and the cyanide vats, but although crude, the milling and cyaniding of the ore appears to be reasonably efficient considering the scale of working. The peak period of production from this area was between 1899 and 1921,

when the mining was carried out by the Borneo Company Limited; between 1933 and 1939 there was a temporary increase in the output. Downstream from Bau there are extensive deposits of alluvium which may contain gold in sufficient quantity to repay mining. This possibility is being tested by Anglo-Oriental (Malaya) Limited who are boring some of the alluvial flats.

Coal is being worked on a small scale in the Bintulu area by Logging and Lumber Limited. The 1950 output of 22 tons was used for one of the company's ships, which is bringing timber to the Rejang River and had previously used wood fuel. Although the deposits contain bituminous coal, it appears unlikely at present that they can be profitably worked on a large scale.

The antimony ore output of 4 tons came from the Bau area. It was produced by Ban Lee Gold Mining Company as a by-product of their gold mining.

Phosphate production totalled 10,800 pikuls, the highest output yet obtained; it came from the deposits in the Niah Caves at Bukit Subis in the Fourth Division. These are the largest deposits yet found in the country, and are worked and marked under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. The phosphate occurs mainly as guano, which is common in a number of limestone caves throughout Sarawak. The production figure given above does not include small amounts of phosphate extracted by the Niah cave owners themselves, or the small production from caves elsewhere in Sarawak to supply local requirements. Deposits containing over 2,000 tons of guano occur at Gunong Staat south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian.

Building materials produced in Sarawak comprise bricks, tiles, lime, and stone. Most of the output is obtained in the vicinity of Kuching, the most developed part of the country. A total of 990,000 bricks were produced by Chop Mong Soon, Swee Huat Seng, the Prison Department, and Ban Hin Company; this last concern also manufactured 50,000 tiles. The clay and sand used came from the valley of the Sarawak river. The lime output was 15,500 pikuls and was prepared by the above three Chinese concerns using limestone from Gunong Staat. The recorded production of stone is 47,900

cubic yards and was quarried in the First Division; only negligible quantities were worked elsewhere in the country. Most of the stone was used for road construction and repairs: it is mostly andesite porphyry from Bukit Stabar quarry, near Kuching.

The aluminium ore, discovered during 1949 in the Sematan area of west Sarawak, was prospected more completely during 1950. Other occurrences in the neighbourhood were examined by geologists of the British Aluminium Company Limited. There are indications that the occurrences are extensive, and some are of commercial grade; the search for additional deposits continues. The existence of a supply of bauxite in British territory near a suitable site for a hydro-electric scheme, such as that at Tenom in the Colony of North Borneo, is of considerable potential value. In the past it has been possible to export bauxite profitably from Bintan Island in the Riouw Archipelago and from Malaya. The Sarawak deposits will probably therefore make a useful contribution to the stability of the local economy.

CHAPTER 7.

Social Services.

Education

General and Administration.

During 1950 the senior staff of the Education Department was strengthened by the recruitment of two Temporary Education Officers "on secondment" from the United Kingdom. One of these was posted to the Teacher Training Centre to assist with the teaching of Handwork and Physical Training. The other, a Woman Education Officer, will be responsible for the teaching of Infant and Junior Methods at the Training Centre and for the training and welfare of the women student-teachers who attend the Centre as day-students. With these additions the senior staff now consists of a Director and eleven Education Officers.

Although two local teachers were appointed to act as Group Supervisors of Schools the staff available is still far from adequate to provide satisfactorily for the supervision and inspection of the rapidly expanding school system. Divisional Education Officers could be posted only to two out of the five Divisions, and the urgent need for a considerably increased number of local supervisory staff became more apparent.

The standard of staffing in all types of schools showed a marked improvement over previous years, both as regards numbers and qualifications of teachers. Rural schools benefited by the first output of 39 Certificated Teachers from the Batu Lintang Training Centre who took up duty at the beginning of 1950 in Government, Local Authority, Mission or Private Schools. The staffs of the urban Mission Schools were strengthened considerably by the arrival from overseas of a number of qualified and experienced European, American and Asian teachers. Vacation courses conducted by Education Officers in the First and Third Divisions proved very successful, and serving untrained teachers, including a number from Chinese Schools, derived great benefit from these courses.

The school population rose from 35,800 in 1949 to 39,423 at the end of 1950. The total enrolment in 1941 was approximately 19,000; so the number of pupils has been more than doubled over the past nine years. The increase in the number of girls attending school continued to be encouraging, and the number of children of the indigenous peoples who entered schools again rose sharply. From the English Schools 125 candidates sat for the Cambridge University Overseas Examinations as compared with 78 in the previous year, and the number of pupils in Chinese Middle classes increased from 1,025 to 1,202 over the same period. There was still a large number of over-age pupils at all stages of the school system. In the higher classes their presence was explained partly by the effects of the war which caused many children to lose four or five years of education, and partly by the number of pupils who transfer to Mission English Schools after attending Chinese Schools for a number of years. The admission of considerable numbers of over-age pupils to the lower standards showed, however, that there was still much that is unsatisfactory in the attitude of parents and in the organisation of many schools.

The first output of trained teachers enabled the Local Authorities to open some new schools, but in general the year was one of consolidation in the developing Local Authority School system. Weaknesses involved in the devolution of control of Primary Education from the Central Government to Local Authorities, the members of which were mostly illiterate, became apparent and many of the resulting problems have still to be solved. It was possible, however, to gain more detailed knowledge of these problems, and also to assess the degrees of enthusiasm and capabilities in different areas and at the various levels. It was encouraging to note the increasing numbers of Authorities and School Committees which showed an appreciation of the need to develop their own schemes for raising funds to finance further expansion of their educational services. The urgent need to provide, at all levels, more professional guidance from departmental officers became increasingly obvious.

The appointment of the first Woman Education Officer last year enabled various improvements to be made during 1950 in the educational facilities for women and girls. At the beginning of the year a central Domestic Science Centre was opened where instruction was given to fifty senior girls

from various Kuching schools, and Needlework classes for teachers were held during the afternoons. A few girls were admitted as day-students for full-time instruction at the Teacher Training Centre, and part-time courses in general teaching methods were organised for a group of serving women teachers.

Through the generosity of the Australian Goodwill Mission a considerable quantity of visual-aid equipment, including film-strip projectors and sound film projectors, was supplied to the department during the year. Under the Lord Mayor of London's Fund the nucleus of a teachers' reference library was provided, and the opening of a local branch of the British Council resulted in improved library facilities for students in Kuching and Sibü. The Sarawak Government donated a sum of \$50,000 to help with the establishment of the new University of Malaya and agreed to pay an annual contribution in future years.

The Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State, Sir Christopher Cox, K.C.M.G., and an Assistant Advisor Miss F. H. Gwilliam, visited Sarawak during the year. Both visited many schools and areas and gave very valuable advice on the future development of education in the Colony. In September the Director attended the second conference of Directors of Education from the Far-Eastern territories which was again held in Singapore.

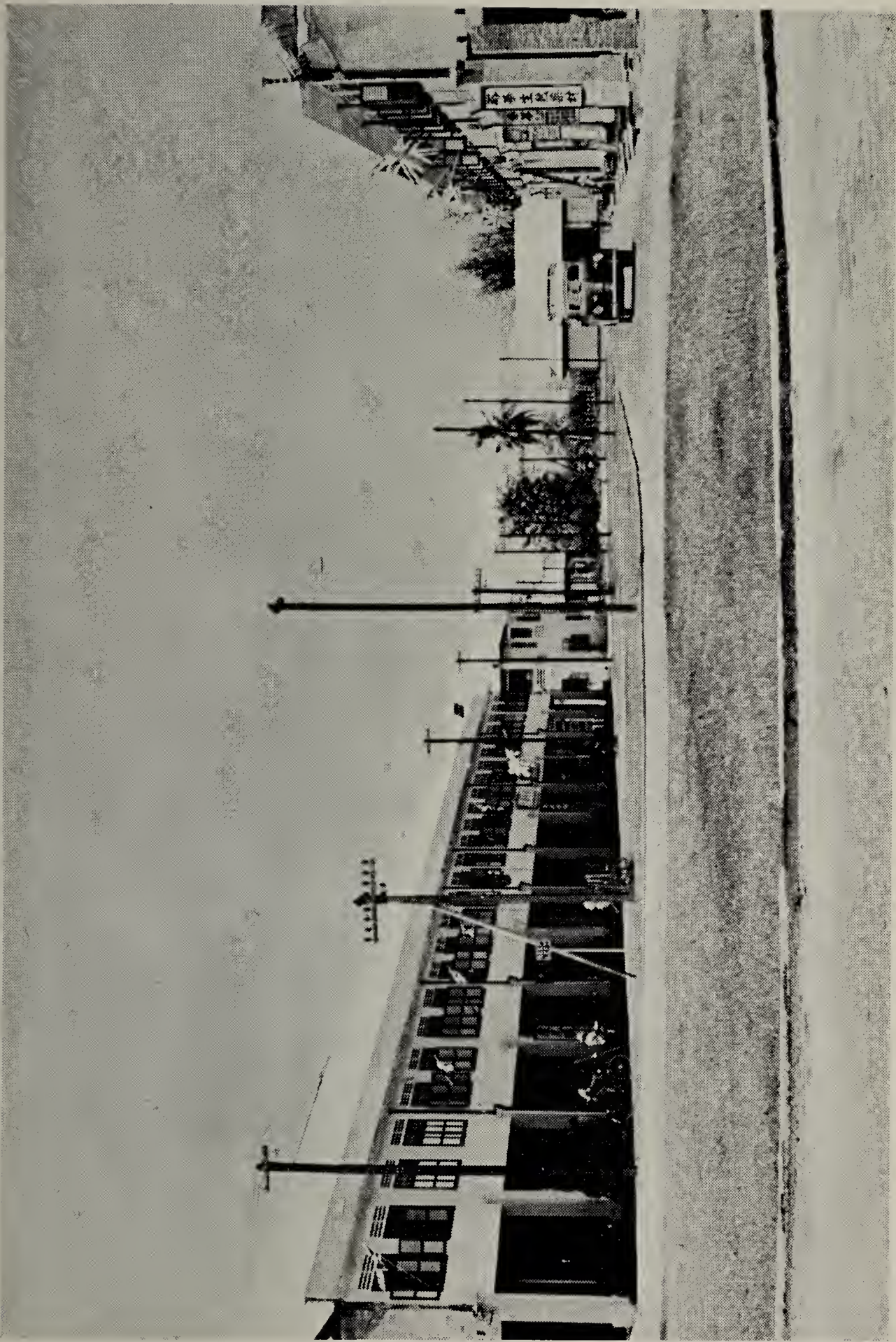
At the end of the year the Education Ordinance, 1950, was enacted which gave greater control over schools than was provided in the previous Schools Ordinance, which was replaced by the new legislation.

Finance.

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services:—

| | 1940. | 1949. | 1950 (estimate). |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Central Government funds ... | \$166,881 | \$328,995 | \$532,318 |
| Local Authority funds ... | nil | 44,041 | 157,985 |
| Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ... | nil | 158,981 | 234,868 |
| Total ... | \$166,881 £19,469 | \$532,017 £62,068 | \$925,171 £107,936 |

It was reported that during 1950 the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$414,000 (£48,300) and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$1,492,240 (£168,320) on educational



Much progress was made during the year on rebuilding the important town of Miri, the market area of which was almost totally destroyed during the late war.

services. These amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds. The Local Authorities estimated that in addition to the money voted from their own funds they would spend an additional \$17,058 (£1,989) raised by school fees or education cesses.

Government Schools.

At the end of 1950 there were 47 Government Schools staffed by 102 teachers and with 4,037 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 50 schools with 91 teachers and 3,760 pupils. Three Government Schools were taken over by Local Authorities during the year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees with advisory powers function at a number of these schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which some post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. Before the war English was taught only in "special classes" attached to one school in Kuching; and this subject was not included in the curriculum of the pre-war Malay Teacher Training College. Since the war there has been a great demand for English. This has been met partly by the engagement of English-speaking teachers in a few of the larger schools, and principally by the inclusion of English in the curriculum of the new Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1950 trained teachers from the Centre who had been posted to Government Schools numbered 29 and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

At most of these schools the number of pupils remaining in school for more than one or two years continued to be discouragingly low. There was, however, a noticeable improvement in some schools where trained teachers had been posted.

At the Government School at Batu Lintang, which is run in conjunction with the Teacher Training Centre, post-primary academic courses were held for boys who had com-

pleted the primary courses in rural vernacular schools. 16 new pupils, including 7 from Brunei, were admitted at the beginning of 1950, bringing the total in these classes to 40.

One Malay girl who had completed the primary course in a vernacular school was awarded a Government scholarship to enable her to enter a Mission English School.

Local Authority Schools.

At the end of 1950 there were 67 Local Authority Schools with 77 teachers and an enrolment of 2,545 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1949 were 40 schools with 50 teachers and 1,625 pupils. The 27 additional schools included 7 which were taken over from other educational bodies. Requests were made to the Authorities for the opening of numerous other schools, but most Authorities preferred that expansion should keep pace with output of trained teachers from Batu Lintang and that promising young men should be sent for training rather than utilised to open new schools.

Local Authorities are financed mainly by a refund of the head tax or door tax collected in their area, together with a direct grant from central funds based on the amount of the tax so collected. In order to raise additional revenue for education, Local Authorities have in some cases agreed to substitute head tax for door tax or to impose an education cess. Most Authorities now charge fees in their schools.

In the more progressive areas the work of School Committees provided an outlet for local enthusiasm for education and an opportunity for public service within village communities. Committees were active in organising the maintenance of school buildings, the raising of funds for the purchase of sports gear and other equipment not provided by the Authorities, and in assisting with the organisation of sports meetings and similar events.

The general organisation and curriculum of these schools are similar to those adopted for Government Schools.

Private Schools or Village Committee Schools.

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged in the meantime to open schools under the management of Committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools"

or "Private Schools" receive financial assistance from Government. There were 35 schools of this type at the end of 1950 with 45 teachers and 1,769 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 38 schools with 58 teachers and 1,891 pupils. The slight decreases in numbers are explained by the fact that several more of these schools were taken over, as in accordance with general policy, by Local Authorities during the year. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$5,821 (£679), as compared with \$3,400 (£407) in 1949, were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from the Mission representative in the area.

Mission Schools.

At the end of the year there were 59 of these schools with 243 teachers and 7,166 pupils. At the end of 1949 there was the same number of schools with 219 teachers and 6,550 pupils.

Grants from Government or Local Authorities amounting to \$100,182 (£11,688) were paid to Mission Schools during the year as compared with \$85,942 (£10,027) during the previous year. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff, and a more favourable formula was adopted for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Services. At 7 of these schools classes of Standard VII and above were provided in which 293 pupils were enrolled. This figure compares with 239 pupils in 1949 and 185 in 1948. 93 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate Examination at the end of 1950. 53 candidates out of 66 entrants were successful in this examination held in 1949. Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate candidates were held at 4 schools and 32 candidates, of whom 6 were girls, sat for this examination at the end of 1950. 9 candidates out of 11 entrants obtained School Certificates the previous year.

The improved staffing position at these schools enabled the curriculum in the secondary classes to be widened beyond the minimum required by the examining Board. The

teaching of History was introduced at some schools, and a beginning made with the teaching of Science but lack of sufficient accommodation and apparatus were serious handicaps. Increased attention was paid to out-of-school activities, including concerts, games and athletics.

In the rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools.

Several new Chinese Schools were registered during 1950 bringing the total number of these schools to 215 with 23,906 pupils and 804 teachers. In the previous year there were 209 schools with 21,800 pupils and 730 teachers. Most of these schools were controlled by Committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$48,498 (£5,657), as compared with \$42,000 (£4,900) in 1949 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 77 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 15,425 pupils. In addition one Chinese School was aided by a Local Authority.

There were 2 "Junior Middle" Schools and 9 other schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. A "Senior Middle" course was established at the American Methodist Chinese School at Sibul. Plans were in preparation during the year for the opening of a Senior Middle School in Kuching during 1951.

The Chinese "National Language" Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak, but greatly increased attention is being given to the teaching of English as a subject. Teachers' Vacation Courses were organised largely with the object of improving the teaching of oral English in these schools.

In the third Division, where there is a large number of Chinese Schools, a common Higher Primary Examination was held for the first time, under an Examination Board of which the Divisional Education Officer was Chairman. The holding of this joint examination is a sign of successful co-operation among the Managements and should help to raise the standard of attainment in the schools and to improve the curriculum.

A disappointingly low proportion of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst the teachers. As a result there is little continuity in staffing at most schools as resignations and transfers are far too common a feature.

Higher Education.

There were two admissions to the University of Malaya during the year. One student from Sibu entered the University as a private candidate to study for a Science Degree, and a woman teacher from Kuching was awarded a Government Scholarship which will enable her to study for an Arts Degree leading to a career in teaching.

A Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship was awarded to a young Sea-Dayak. This student had completed a two years' engagement as Assistant at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. The Scholarship will enable him to take a one-year course of pre-degree studies which if successful will be followed by a three-year degree course at a British University.

A private student from Kuching was admitted to the University of Nottingham for the 1950/51 session to prepare for the LL. B. Degree. Arrangements were being made for him to be admitted as a student of Lincoln's Inn.

In addition to the students referred to above, three Medical Students, one Dental Student, one Agricultural Student, one Arts Student, one Civil Engineering Student and one Surveying Student were taking courses in Singapore or Malaya during 1950. One local Nurse was in training in the United Kingdom, and one student entered a British University for a degree course, both under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships Scheme. One student was studying Municipal Administration in England under a scholarship awarded by the British Council, and another was holding a Fellowship awarded by the Commonwealth of Australia for a course in Surveying.

Teacher-Training.

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang near Kuching at a Centre which is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The Staff consists of a Principal, an Assistant Principal who is a Roman Catholic Priest with

academic and professional qualifications, and an assistant staff of local teachers of various races. This staff was strengthened during the year by the addition of a teacher with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training, on secondment from the United Kingdom, and by the assistance of a Woman Officer trained in Infant and Junior methods, also on secondment from the United Kingdom. Efforts to recruit an Anglican priest as a second Assistant Principal were unfortunately not successful, but arrangements were made for the part-time assistance from the beginning of 1951, of a Priest in the Anglican Mission who is also on the staff of the Mission's Boys' School in Kuching.

The practical co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school continues to be a most important aspect of the Centre. Another vital feature is the gathering together of students of all races, religions and creeds in order to develop mutual understanding and to foster a corporate spirit.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme, irrespective of the financial status of his family.

The course, which is at present of two years' duration, was designed to improve the academic standard of all students, including the study of English, and to give them a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Considerable emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels for different sects were provided in portions of the huts.

During 1950 there were 120 student teachers at Batu Lintang of whom 48 were in their first year and the remainder in their second year of training. This number was composed of representatives of 10 different races of Sarawak, and included 20 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei. Three women were admitted to the Training Centre as day-students. At the end of the year 49 Sarawak students, in addition to 9 from Brunei, completed their training and were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country.

The scheme had still to be limited to a course to provide teachers for the lower-primary schools. Difficulties in recruiting staff and pupils made it impossible to establish, as had

been hoped, a higher course catering for students from the central English Schools with a minimum qualification of "Standard VII".

As an experiment several Vacation Courses for serving teachers were organised by Education Officers in the First and Third Divisions. The response from teachers and the resulting improvements in enthusiasm and technique were very encouraging, and plans were made for extending this form of help to teachers.

Adult Education.

In April 1950 the first group of 22 married couples completed their training at the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit, and a new intake of 24 couples was admitted. The course, which lasts two years, is designed to help selected Sea-Dayak couples to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple market arithmetic. During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "long-house" design which provides class-rooms, dining and recreational facilities and a dispensary. Students and their families live during the course both in the long-house and in individual homes, of different designs, which have been built on model small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with practical experience of both types of accommodation by which they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for adoption in their home areas. The school grounds occupy some 200 acres, one quarter of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. The School is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Efforts were made during the year to ensure that the pupils discharged in April had the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they had learned during their training. The principal was able to visit most of them in their home areas and valuable help was given to many pupils by Agricultural Officers and Assistants. It is clear that

some pupils are already exercising a progressive influence on their neighbours by the introduction of better methods of agriculture and by improvements in the home. A few have unfortunately abandoned agriculture for more profitable employment during the present rubber boom. A full assessment of the results of the training will not be possible for some time, but it is already obvious that arrangements for the efficient supervision of all pupils after they return to their homes will have to form an essential part of the scheme.

During the early part of the year a pilot Literacy Scheme was conducted for adult Sea-Dayaks living in the headwaters of the River Paku, a tributary of the Saribas in the Second Division. The Saribas Dayaks have long been regarded as among the most progressive sections of their race. Co-operative Societies have operated successfully in that area, and there has been a positive demand for some form of adult literacy work. The scheme was organised by an Education Officer and a Dayak assistant, making use of literate Dayaks in the area. Two illustrated primers were produced for the scheme on a Gestepoint machine in the Education Department, and some small booklets were produced by the same process as reading material for the "follow-up". Although the number of men and women who became literate as a result of the campaign was not large, valuable lessons have been learnt for the guidance of future schemes of community development.

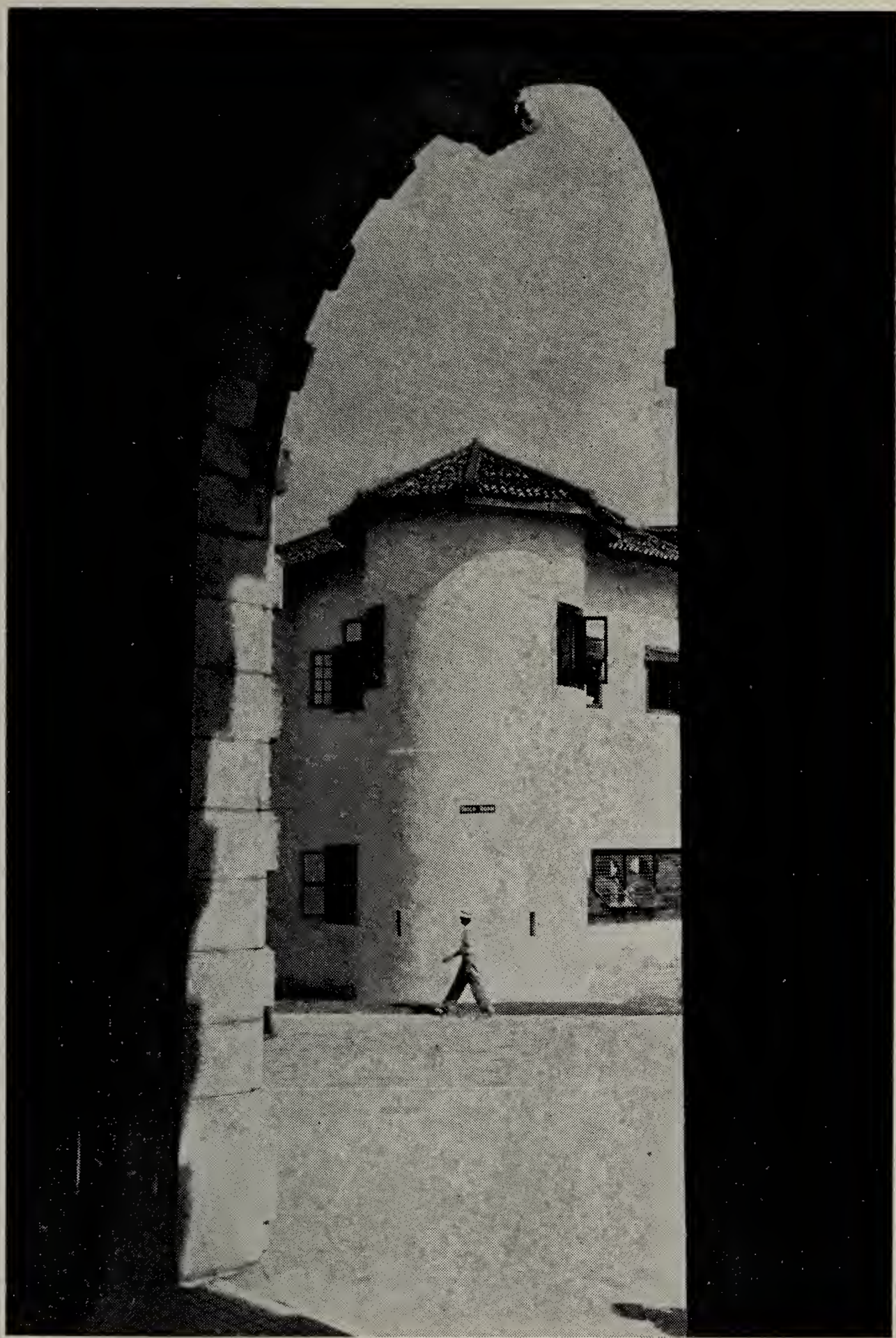
Since January 1950 a monthly illustrated newspaper in the Sea-Dayak vernacular has been produced by the Department. About 800 copies are sold monthly, each paper being usually shared amongst many people.

Night classes at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few other schools continued to be well attended. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and in a few instances to study English.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities.

There were several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities. A few provided facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

Several new troops of Boy Scouts were formed, including four from Sea Dayak areas in the Second Division. The



The Round Tower, Kuching.

movement received a stimulus when the Travelling Commissioner from Imperial Headquarters, Mr. F. H. J. Dahl, visited the Colony during 1950 and toured the country widely. During his stay in Kuching, Scout matters were discussed by interested persons and organisations in a meeting at which His Excellency the Governor presided. The Commissioner organised a Preliminary Training Course where some 40 senior Scouts received training in the conduct of Scout Troops and Groups; those who completed the course received a certificate issued by Imperial Headquarters.

The Girl Guide movement made steady progress. Through the generosity of the British Council, two local Guides, one a Chinese and the other a Malay, were able to visit the United Kingdom where they attended a three-months' intensive training course. They returned with new knowledge and ideas which have given a stimulus to the movement.

The department continued to be responsible for the Kuching Boys' Home for juvenile delinquents. There were 15 boys at the beginning of the year and since then there were 10 new admissions; 6 left and all were found suitable employment. After-care work was much improved, the Warden keeping in close touch with all boys after they leave the Home. A small live-stock farm was started and recreational facilities were improved. Members of the Social Welfare Committee and of the Rotary Club made frequent visits.

Health.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

The senior medical staff approved for the Medical Department for the year 1950, was a Director, a Deputy Director, nine medical officers and a Lady Medical Officer. During the year two new medical officers arrived, and a serving officer was promoted to Deputy Director. There remained unfilled two vacancies for medical officers.

At the beginning of the year the senior nursing establishment was complete and consisted of a matron, a sister tutor, a health visitor and four nursing sisters. One nursing sister vacancy was caused through illness, but a replacement was expected early in 1951.

The Sarawak establishment includes provision for the neighbouring State of Brunei, and one medical officer and one nursing sister were seconded to Brunei throughout the year.

Although the position with regard to expatriate staff was reasonably good considerable difficulties were still experienced with locally recruited staff. There were few recruits presenting themselves during the year as probationer nurses or hospital assistants, and the year ended with fewer nurses in employment than in January, although there was a small increase in the number of hospital assistants.

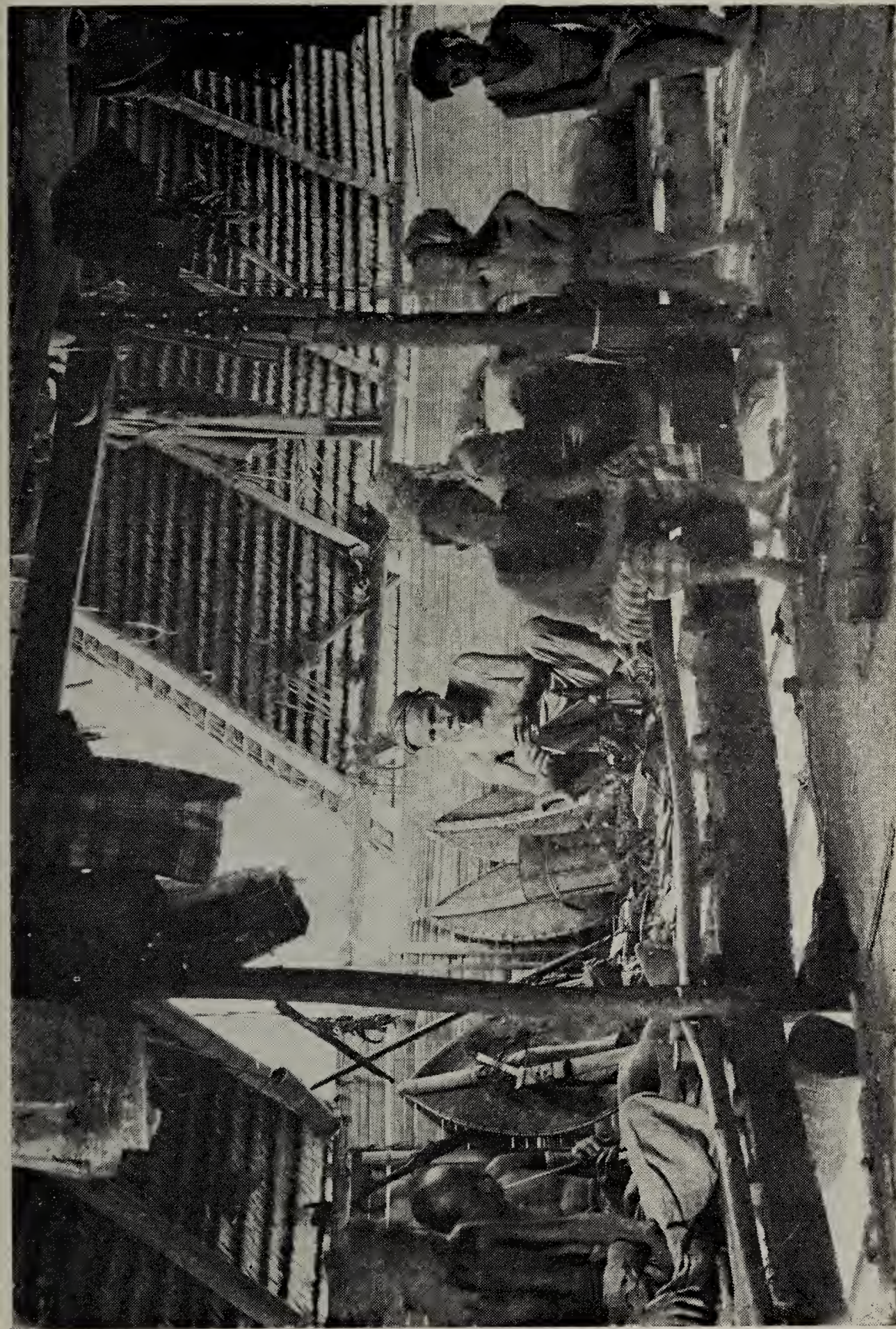
As a result of these staff shortages and in order to permit staff regular off-duty days it was found necessary temporarily, by closing a ward in the General Hospital, Kuching, to reduce the hospital beds by twenty-three.

Towards the end of the year a scheme for the employment of assistant nurses was approved, and will be put into operation at the beginning of 1951. This scheme allows for the employment of girls of a lower educational standard than that required for student nurses. The function of the assistant nurses is to relieve the trained nurses by carrying out in the wards the practical procedures and simple nursing techniques for which a high standard of training is not required.

The numbers of hospital assistants and nurses who completed their training during the year was twelve and four respectively. At the close of the year twenty-six probationary hospital assistants and nineteen probationary nurses were in training. With a full time professional sister tutor available considerable progress was made and teaching standards were materially improved. A promising small nursing school has been built up and excellently equipped with the help of very fine teaching apparatus provided by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. The special teaching accommodation consists of a lecture room and a practical teaching room both of which, in equipment, leave little to be desired.

Nevertheless, perfection has not been achieved and teaching in the wards has been sadly hampered because of shortage of staff.

Courses of lectures in midwifery and paediatric nursing for senior staff were conducted by the Midwife Tutor and the Paediatric Sister who have been provided for a period of fifteen months by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. In addition, for the greater part of the year four



Land Dayaks resting in the head-house at Kampong Riom, near Segu, during a stage in the rites formerly performed for the reception of new human heads.

understudies, senior nurses, have been attached to each of these U.N.I.C.E.F. officers and have received extremely valuable training in their respective specialties. By the end of the year the U.N.I.C.E.F. officers felt that they had achieved their main objective and that their understudies were fully capable of running the Children's and Maternity Wards on their own.

Six midwives were continuously in training throughout the year in the General Hospital, Kuching, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. Three completed their training in 1950 and received certificates.

In the past training was solely in the conduct of labour, but, as circumstances have permitted, more and more emphasis has been placed on training in ante-natal supervision and post-natal care and at the end of the year, coincident with a decision, subject to funds being made available, to initiate a domiciliary midwifery service to relieve pressure on the limited number of obstetric beds in the hospital and for other reasons, it was proposed to increase the training period for midwives to two years. The object of this proposal was to enable sounder training to be given in ante-natal and post-natal care and to give trainees opportunity for experience in domiciliary work, namely, in the environment in which, after training, the majority of these women would work.

An obvious advantage of initiation of this scheme at present is that, now, advantage can be taken, approval having been obtained from the U.N.I.C.E.F. organisation, of the presence of the U.N.I.C.E.F. Midwife Tutor to initiate the work and guide it in its early stages.

At the end of the year the scheme was under the consideration of Government.

Five men were sent to Singapore in January to attend the course of training with a view to sitting for the examination for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Of these, four were successful in the examination. The unsuccessful man will make a further attempt and three more men are ready to go to Singapore in 1951.

In 1948 there were three certificated health inspectors in the Colony. At the end of 1950 there were nine.

In the past year or two it had been hoped, with the assistance of the Sanitary Superintendent, to develop a syllabus of training which would satisfy the Royal Sanitary Institute

and enable examinations for the R.S.I. certificate to be held in Kuching. This hope has not yet been abandoned but discussion which the Director had with the Institute when he was in London suggests that it may be wiser to defer this project in the meantime.

Shortage of personnel has seriously hindered increasing the numbers of health visitor trainees. The importance of this work is clearly realised, however, and every effort was made to obtain more personnel. At the beginning of the year one trained nurse and two district midwives, as they are at present designated, were in training. By the end of the year the numbers had been increased to two trained nurses and four district midwives, small numbers in all conscience, but taking account of the general shortage of nursing personnel, a real advance.

No major public health legislation was enacted during the year.

New Buildings.

The marked increase in building costs during the year had its effect on the Department's substantial building programme, certain projects not being completed or, unfortunately, abandoned temporarily.

In Kuching General Hospital a number of minor improvements, although not all planned, were effected. In Simanggang a building was erected providing accommodation for outpatients and a small laboratory. In Sibu a substantial building programme was planned including a new outpatient department, a mental ward, a tuberculosis ward and a new nurses' home. Of these only the mental ward was proceeded with and this was incomplete at the end of the year.

One new outstation dispensary with rest beds were provided and improvements effected in other dispensaries. Erection of one new dispensary in a very remote area was undertaken but was not completed.

Finance.

The expenditure on medical and health services in 1950 was provisionally \$1,461,513.92 compared with \$1,161,750.54 for 1949.

GENERAL SANITATION.

There are no major schemes for the water-borne disposal of sewage. In the residential areas of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have septic tank installations, but general nightsoil disposal is by the double-bucket system. There is no doubt that this will have to continue for many years, but every encouragement will be given to the installation of septic tanks in new buildings where practicable. In the villages and less congested areas, river or pit latrines are the rule.

Nightsoil disposal in Kuching is undertaken by the Municipality and the nightsoil is treated in a series of three septic tanks before discharge into the river below the town. In Sibü and Miri the work is carried out by contractors and crude sewage is discharged into the rivers when the tide is ebbing.

In Kuching collection and disposal of refuse is efficiently carried out by the Municipality, disposal being by controlled tipping in various areas where it is desired to reclaim land. In Sibü the organisation has been greatly improved with the provision of mechanical transport and now operates as in Kuching. Elsewhere refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness and there was a general improvement during the year.

The main towns and several small townships have piped water supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but no treatment is undertaken except at Sibü. Here the supply is drawn from the heavily-polluted Rejang River and is treated by storage and chlorination. Elsewhere, rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population, but these sources are subject to contamination and are therefore a threat to the public health.

Food premises in towns operate under licence and are subject to inspection by public health staff when available. Though there has been a slight improvement in conditions, methods of manufacture, storage and preparation for sale remain in many cases primitive. Food hawkers present a major problem; their handling methods are crude and their numbers make control almost impossible; typhoid endemicity and the incidence of intestinal infections therefore remain considerable. The standard of the markets in the towns was reasonably good, as they were subject to departmental inspection and municipal control.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

Available information suggests that tuberculosis is the largest and most urgent problem confronting the Department. No general survey has been carried out in the Colony as a whole or even in any part of it. Nevertheless, such incomplete and inadequate figures as are available indicate that tuberculosis incidence is high generally and especially in urban areas.

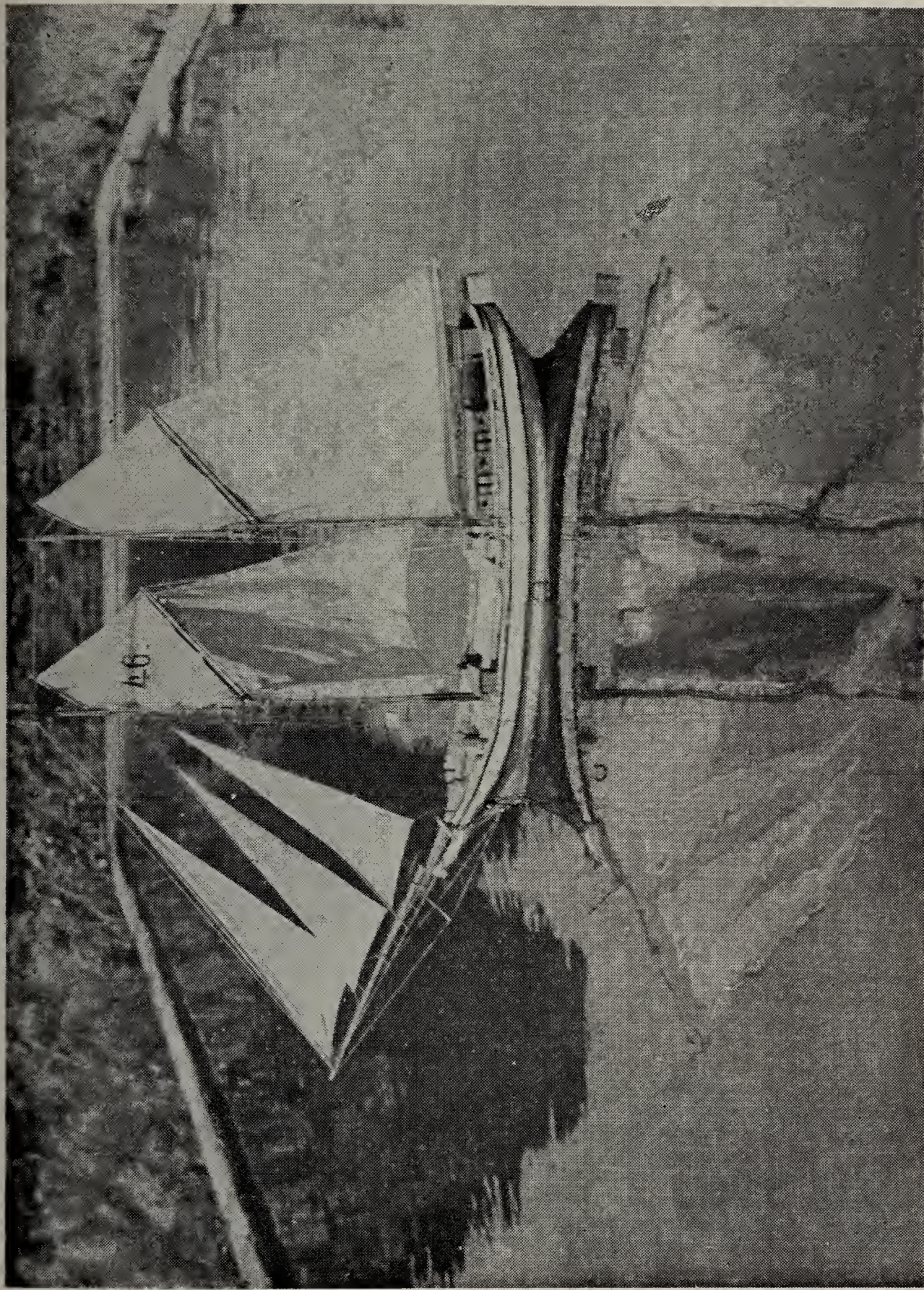
All medical Department staff in Kuching were tuberculin tested and negative reactors were given B.C.G. vaccination. A similar procedure was carried out in a small number of contacts of notified cases. The figures of persons tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated up to the end of December were as follows :—

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Number tuberculin tested | ... 528 |
| Number vaccinated with B.C.G. | ... 167 |

The only special tuberculosis beds in the Colony were those in the General Hospital, Kuching, and numbered fifty. These were constantly filled and, in fact, in December, over twenty additional cases were being treated in general wards. Provision for a twenty bed tuberculosis ward at Sibu Hospital was made in the 1950 budget but the work had not been undertaken by the end of the year.

It was clearly necessary that the limited number of beds available be put to best use and that open cases should not be nursed in general wards. Thus a tuberculosis clinic service was started in a small way in Kuching and it was just finding its feet as the year closed. Outpatient treatment and supervision has been started and also home supervision of suitable cases. The Health Officer, Kuching, is responsible for this service and he has the co-operation of all members of the Department whose activities touch the tuberculosis problem at any point.

Discussions have taken place regarding the enlistment of voluntary aid, and the formation of an anti-tuberculosis association is under consideration. Such an association could render assistance of a high order, and, as there is considerable public consciousness of the importance of this matter, there is reason to be optimistic about the early formation of an association.



A model boat, an exact replica of the native original, and one of many sailed in the model regattas which have recently become so popular on the lake at Bau—the flooded gold mining site,

Application for assistance has also been made to WHO/UNICEF. These agencies have been asked to provide a B.C.G. vaccination team of one doctor and one or two nurses for a period of 1 year to carry out survey and protective vaccination in Kuching, Sibü, Miri and Brunei. A request has also been made for equipment for mass radiography and other equipment for the Chest Clinic.

Malaria.

No reports were received of unusually high incidence of this disease in any part of the Colony but it undoubtedly gives rise to a very considerable morbidity and a substantial mortality. The towns and trading centres are relatively free from infection as ordinary maintenance is, in view of the habits of the probable vectors *A. leucosphyrus* and *A. umbrosus*, of itself a real anti-malaria measure. Outside the towns there is certainly high endemicity in many places but exact information is still lacking.

During the year the total number of cases diagnosed as malaria at hospitals and dispensaries was 6,689. In 1949 the comparable figure was 10,389. As in the past the great majority of these cases were diagnosed on clinical grounds.

Leprosy.

The number of cases admitted to the Leper Settlement during the year was 66 as compared with 59 in 1949 and 67 in 1948. There would thus appear to have been no significant change in incidence.

The Settlement population at the end of the year was 444 as compared with 418 at the beginning of the year.

Poliomyelitis.

As mentioned in the report for 1949, during that year the Colony experienced its first recognised outbreak of poliomyelitis. At the end of 1949 case incidence had markedly declined in Kuching and the First Division but cases were continuing to occur in the vicinity of Sibü and in the Third Division generally. During 1950 a total of 28 cases was recorded. Case incidence declined as the year advanced, sixteen cases occurring in the first quarter, seven in the second, four in the third and one in the last quarter. One case occurred in each of the three main towns Kuching, Sibü and Miri. All other cases came from rural areas, twenty-

four of them from the Third Division. No deaths were recorded from poliomyelitis.

The epidemic can be said to have petered out some eleven months after it started and is succeeded by the occurrence of the odd sporadic case.

Yaws.

This infection is common and widespread throughout the territory, although reports of hospital assistants working from the travelling dispensaries suggest that the incidence may be declining in certain areas. Some support is lent to this by the fact that only 7,592 cases were diagnosed during the year as compared with 15,370 cases in 1949.

Diphtheria.

There was a further and considerable decline in the number of cases notified, 46 cases being recorded as compared with 82 cases in 1949 and 249 cases in 1948.

The Enteric Fevers.

There were no serious outbreaks of these diseases but sporadic cases recurred throughout the Colony. In Sibu, where for some years past case incidence has been higher than elsewhere, there was a substantial reduction in the number of cases.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

These terms continued to figure prominently in returns from hospitals and outstation dispensaries.

Helminthiasis.

A very large proportion of the population constantly harbour intestinal worms, especially ascaris. Ankylostomiasis is also common, being associated with defective sanitation and the use of nightsoil as fertiliser in agriculture.

Venereal Diseases.

These diseases occur throughout the country, in fairly low incidence in most rural areas and not particularly high incidence even in the towns. During the year 1,353 cases of gonorrhœa and 1,391 cases of syphilis were diagnosed at hospitals and dispensaries. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 839 and 1,883.

Non-endemic diseases.

No cases of major epidemic disease such as smallpox, plague or cholera occurred in the Colony during the year. In fact they have not been reported in Sarawak for many years. A considerable amount of vaccination was carried out, especially in the First Division, in view of the occurrence of smallpox in Pontianak, a town in neighbouring territory of the United States of Indonesia.

Malnutrition and Deficiency Diseases.

Deficiency diseases in severe form are not often encountered nevertheless signs of undernourishment are not infrequent. In certain areas, such as parts of the First Division, although there is no accurate measure of the degree of malnutrition it is known that at times of the year food supplies are deficient and the people go short while waiting for the new harvest. In the towns too undernourishment is frequently observed in babies attending hospitals or infant welfare clinics, but the cause of this is less frequently due to want than it is to ignorance. The percentage of children attending the infant welfare centres in Kuching who were found to be underweight during the year was 30%. It is of interest that this referred to children over 1 year of age. Children under 1 year were seldom recorded as being underweight.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

At the end of the year Government was operating three hospitals, twenty-four outstation dispensaries, seventeen travelling dispensaries, sixteen of which were river craft and one a road vehicle. Most outstation dispensaries have from six to twelve rest beds and simple inpatient treatment is provided.

At Miri, the Sarawak Oilfields Limited operates its hospital of 124 beds primarily for its employees but by arrangement with the Company its hospital facilities are made available to the public on repayment by Government. A similar arrangement with the Government of Brunei enables people of the Fifth Division to receive treatment in Brunei Hospital.

General Hospital, Kuching.

This is the largest and most elaborate medical institution in the Colony and it finished the year with 277 general and special beds and 100 mental beds. It is the training centre for hospital assistants, nurses, midwives, etc. The volume of work undertaken remained considerable although there was a slight drop in the number of inpatients and a substantial reduction in the number of outpatient attendances. During the year the number of inpatients treated was 5,064 while total outpatient attendances numbered 73,506.

No further bed accommodation was provided during the year but a number of minor, but nevertheless important structural improvements were effected. These included a new Malay kitchen, a fuel store, ward pantries, etc. The lecture room was considerably enlarged and very adequately equipped. In the Children's Ward, two isolation cubicles were constructed and also a further cubicle to serve as a food preparation room. This was excellently equipped with refrigerator, milk steriliser, hot-plate, etc. provided by U.N.I.C.E.F. In addition the walls of the ward were tiled.

There was steady improvement in ward equipment and special equipment. Of the latter special mention may be made of the new operating table which, ordered in 1946, arrived during the year. Other noteworthy acquisitions were a diathermy apparatus and an electrocardiograph.

The new X-ray plant installed towards the end of 1949 functioned efficiently throughout the year and was a great asset.

As mentioned previously, staff shortage was very acute and, in July, it was found necessary to close Ward No. 5, thus reducing bed strength by 23. Even with this, staff was seriously overworked and off duty time was totally inadequate. The seriousness of the situation can be measured by the fact that it was only possible to give probationer hospital assistants and nurses one day off duty per month.

The Mental Section, which is situated in the same compound as the General Hospital, is not satisfactory. Accommodation is neither suitable nor sufficient and treatment is, in consequence, very difficult. Nevertheless improvements were effected during the year, and a small measure of categorisation of patients was achieved.



Party circling Satang Island in "Semah" fertility ceremonies 1950,
so that turtles and fish may be numerous during the year.

In the Laboratory, also, there was steady improvement as additional equipment arrived and was installed. This institution, the only one of its kind in the Colony, is a satisfactory one and it functions not only as a medical laboratory but as a public analytical laboratory as well. When medical esablishment allows of the allocation of a medical officer to the Laboratory its work and usefulness will be greatly increased.

Central Dispensary, Kuching.

This is the Outpatient Department of the General Hospital although sited in the centre of the town one and a half miles from the hospital. At the beginning of the year the two sections, male and female, occupied the ground and first floors of a building the top floor of which was occupied by the Education Department. In addition the pharmacy was housed in an adjoining building.

The accommodation available to the Department was shared by the outpatient department and the main Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and was totally inadequate as well as not being entirely suitable. This unsatisfactory situation deteriorated further during the year when the Department was forced to give up its accommodation on the first floor of the main building. Work is carried on under considerable difficulty, and the Maternity and Child Welfare sessions and, at the end of the year, Chest Clinic sessions added to the pressure on accommodation.

Maternal and Child Welfare Service.

Three centres were in operation throughout the year, two in Kuching and one in a rural area fifteen miles from Kuching. Steady progress was made and the work done had more than doubled by the end of the year. Shortage of staff and limited accommodation appear at present to be the only limiting factors, for the service is immensely popular.

At the Main Centre in the Central Dispensary attendances are mainly Chinese. In the Kampong Clinic all the patients are Malays, while at the 15th Mile Clinic ninety per cent of those attending are Land Dayaks, a population group sorely in need of health services. At the latter centre sessions are held once a week and their popularity can be gauged by the number of attendances of infants and mothers during the year, namely 1,719.

It had been hoped to commence this work in Sibu and perhaps other towns but this was not possible and will not be until additional staff can be provided.

The Dental Clinic, Kuching.

Dental staff remained unchanged from 1949. It comprises one Dental Officer, one Government Dentist on contract a dental mechanic and one hospital mandor. This team is accommodated in the General Hospital and has two dental surgeries and a workshop. The small department is well equipped, all apparatus indented for in 1949 having arrived during 1950. The new equipment includes a Watson Dental X-Ray Machine.

Treatment is provided for hospital patients, Government officers and their families, patients referred from the Central Dispensary, pregnant women referred by the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and school children.

Occasional visits were made by dental officers to out-stations.

The number of registered dentists practising in the Colony remained at 160, although only the Government dental staff were the holders of generally recognised dental diplomas. The others have diplomas of Chinese schools or have achieved to the status of dentist through an apprenticeship system. Standards are generally not high but these dentists provide the only dental care available to the vast majority of the population, and can be expected to do so for many years to come.

Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibu.

This institution with 101 general and special beds serves the largest administrative division in the Colony and it was very busy throughout the year.

A substantial building programme was planned for this institution and provision made in the 1950 budget. However, for various reasons, the greater part of the work was not undertaken. In fact the only capital works carried out were extension to the hospital kitchen, the erection of a mental observation ward which was incomplete at the end of the year, and the removal of the old sanitary accommodation inserted in the middle of the two main wards and erection of new sanitary annexes. Of the remaining works planned, the new outpatient department has been deferred, but it is hoped that the nurses' home and tuberculosis ward will be erected in 1951.

During the year there was steady improvement in equipment and the X-ray plant from Kuching, which was replaced by a new apparatus, was installed.

Nursing standards, too, improved as the presence of a nursing sister posted to Sibü for the first time in December, 1949, made itself felt.

The Maternity Ward, completed in December, 1949, was a great asset. The number of confinements conducted in the ward during the year was 265, a great advance on the previous year when only five maternity beds were available, and confinements numbered 164.

There was a substantial decline in the number of outpatients, total attendances during the year being 24,292 as compared with 29,832 in 1949. However, inpatients showed an increase from 8,260 in 1949 to 8,826 in 1950.

Simanggang Hospital.

At the end of the year this institution had twenty-four general beds and was doing good work. Admissions numbered 698 and total outpatient attendances were 19,075 of which 15,722 were new cases. Its first year with a medical officer in charge was very promising and the area had better medical service than in any previous year. Minor alterations and additions were made during the year, the most important of which was the erection of a semi-permanent structure to serve as outpatient department and laboratory and the installation of tank and piping for a piped water supply.

Provision has been made to increase the number of beds to 50 during 1951.

Outstation Dispensaries.

The number of dispensaries functioning during the year was twenty-four, the same as in 1949 now that the dispensary in Simanggang is classified as a hospital.

The policy of improving existing dispensaries was pursued and one new dispensary with bed accommodation was erected to replace an old, unsatisfactory and inadequate building.

As in the past years supervision of the work of the outstation dressers has been less than ideal and it was only in the Third Division that reasonably frequent supervising visits were made by medical officers. In spite of this it can again

be said that the hospital assistants did very good work which was, to judge from the requests for extension of this service, really appreciated by the people.

Total attendances at these dispensaries numbered 118,957 in 1950 as compared with 137,211 in 1949.

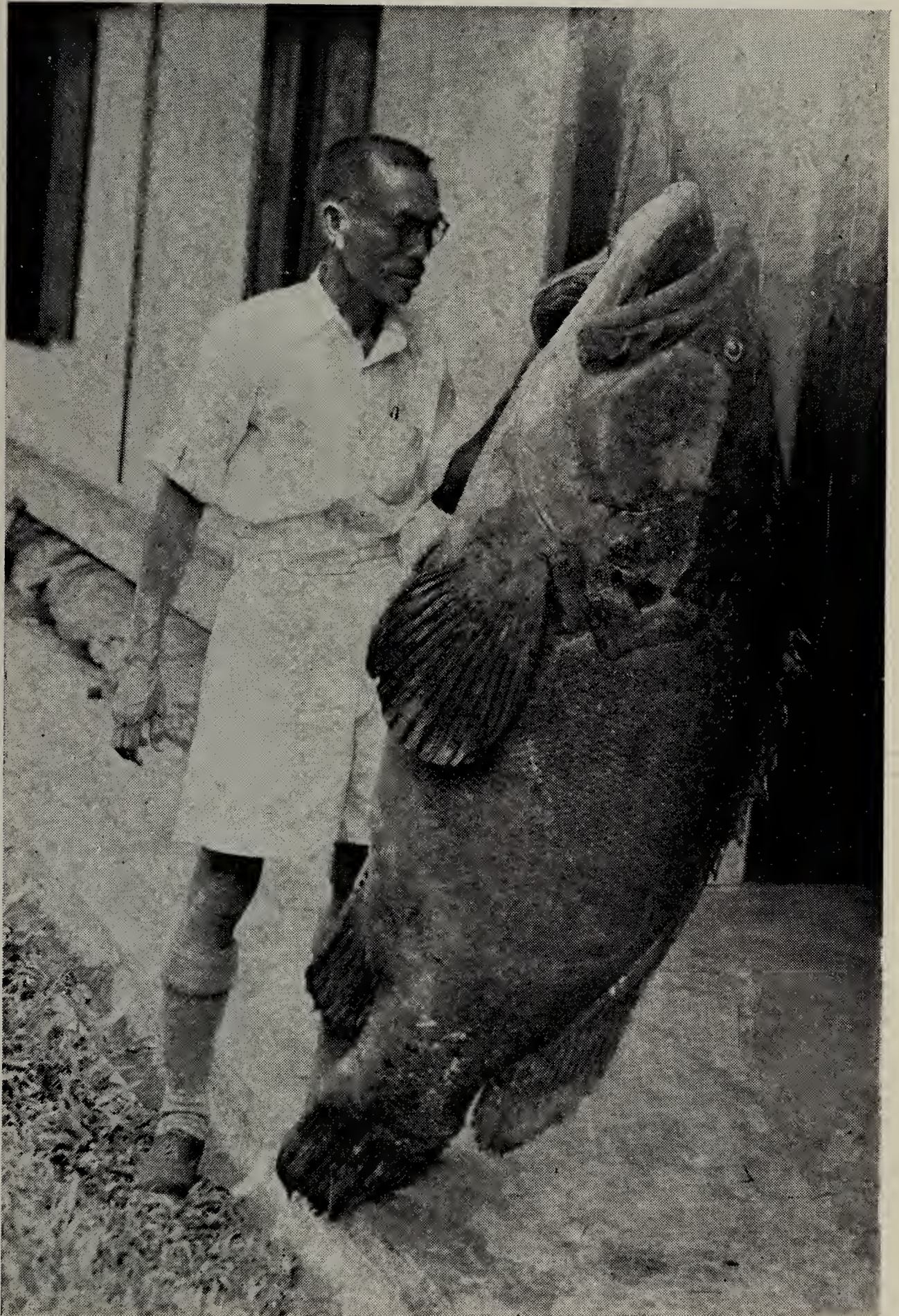
The Travelling Dispensaries.

(C.D. & W. Scheme No. D. 830).

The full travelling dispensary scheme of sixteen travelling units was in operation from 3rd January when the fourteen additional boats commenced work. The year's performance of these units has been very satisfactory and their regular penetration into areas previously untouched by medical services has been of great benefit. Reports from administrative officers have consistently recorded the popularity of the new service and public appreciation of it in the rivers served. The peoples of other rivers, not yet included in the scheme, have made frequent demands for visits from the boats and it has been difficult, sometimes, to convince them that frequent and regular visits are essential and that the usefulness of the boats would be largely lost if their itineraries were so extensive that visits to any particular place would be infrequent. As it is, itineraries are stretched to the limit and the service can only be profitably extended by the provision of additional units. It is planned to do this in 1953.

The maintaining of these units has been a not inconsiderable task and there have been many troubles. Mechanical defects have occurred with some frequency which is not surprising when one considers the hard and continuous work to which the engines are put. Nevertheless, as each boat is provided with a spare engine interruptions of schedules were not as significant as they might have been. There is little doubt, however, that as time goes on and engines begin to wear out troubles will increase. In fact, it is possible that major capital replacements will be necessary before the scheme has run its full course.

During 1949, total attendances at the two travelling dispensaries then operating numbered 36,045. The preliminary figures of total attendances at the sixteen travelling dispensaries during 1950 is 164,778.



A giant rock cod caught at Tanjong Po and the taxidermist of the Museum staff.

The Leper Settlement.

This institution is situated thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road.

The Settlement accommodated 444 persons at 31st December, approximately 6% more than at the end of 1949, and can be said to have run with reasonable smoothness throughout the year.

There were twenty-five deaths during the year and thirteen persons were discharged. Some twenty persons, in addition, have done so well under treatment that they are being considered for discharge early in 1951.

It had been planned to initiate in 1950 a programme of replacement of buildings many of which were dilapidated. However, for financial reasons and also as modern treatment appeared to hold out a prospect of reducing the numbers of persons whom it would be necessary to segregate, this was deferred and no permanent building works were undertaken. Instead, five small temporary barracks were erected with the use of Settlement labour to relieve the congestion caused by the increase in population. Repairs to buildings and bridges were also undertaken, on payment, by inmates.

Treatment of all cases which might benefit was continued with sulphetrone and results were encouraging. However, for the last three months of the year oral sulphetrone was replaced by injections of basic sulphone which is considered to be even more effective and is certainly cheaper. This treatment has had its effect not only on the course of the disease but also on the outlook of those infected. Although the age-old horror of the disease remains among those not infected, people are beginning to realise it may be curable. Sufferers are no longer hopeless of cure and look forward to the day when they may be able to return to a normal life. This attitude is clearly reflected in the morale of the inmates and the Settlement community is a much happier one than it was in the past. The people take a greater interest in Settlement Welfare activities and are more inclined to do things for themselves. The Settlement working group of the Red Cross Society was very active establishing a reading and recreation room and sports facilities. These activities were financed in large measure by the people themselves with only minimal material assistance from the local branch.

The Chinese inmates operated their own Chung Hwa Club. In the beginning this organisation endeavoured to exercise administrative authority over all Chinese in the Settlement, but, after some trouble, it has settled down to be a purely social organisation.

The Kuching Rotary Club and the Chinese Associations continued to take an interest in the Settlement and provided amenities and gifts to the inmates.

It can be said that during the year Settlement affairs progressed satisfactorily and that standards of care and medical treatment were maintained.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

This is based on the Quarantine Rules, 1932, which are inadequate in scope and not in accord with recent international conventions. New rules will be enacted in 1951. Kuching, Sarikei and Miri are first ports of call for vessels from overseas. Health inspectors are stationed in each of these places and routine formalities are conducted by them but medical officers are available when necessary.

No infected vessels entered the Colony's ports during the year.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

British Red Cross Society—Sarawak Branch.

The Branch widened the scope of its work during the year and Divisions were established in Simanggang, Betong and Miri. In Kuching and the First Division the Ambulance service operated by the Branch did excellent work. During the year 118 patients were transported from rural areas to hospital and 70 convalescents were carried out of Kuching.

All other activities including the blood transfusion service, teaching of occupational handicrafts in hospital and mental hospital, social work in Leper Settlement, etc. were well maintained.

Sibu Benevolent Society.

This active organisation continued to do most useful work in caring for destitute aged and also chronic tuberculosis cases in its Home near Sibu and its Nursing Home in Sibu. Medical supervision of the latter was provided by Government medical staff.

Missions.

There are no medical missions in the Colony, but simple outpatient treatment continued to be provided at several mission stations and, at two, inpatients were cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

Social Services.

Though Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department as such, the Government does in fact perform a considerable amount of social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of Women and Girls, and administers a repatriation vote and as Protector of Labour and administers a Relief Work vote for Indians. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement, now known as the Home for the Aged.

Since the formation of a Social Welfare Advisory Committee in 1948, good work has been done in advising the Government on social welfare policy and practice. During the past years a Social Welfare Council which has been established comprising representatives of all the various organisations which are interested in this kind of work, as well as of general public is functioning well. Part of its work is carried out by a locally-born probation officer, who returned during 1949 from Singapore, where he had completed a years' intensive training in Social work, both the theoretical and practical is progressing steadily.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a community life. The longhouse system ensures that the individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster-parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the rice harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own associations, which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Home for the Aged near Kuching. In Sibü, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society was established to which reference has been made above. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and with considerable assistance from the Roman Catholic Mission in respect of nursing staff and supervision, runs its own nursing home of the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain out-stations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs, societies and youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns, and a start has been made to tackle the problem in Kuching. The Boys' Home, opened in 1948 and now under the direction of the Education Department, continues its good work of turning budding criminals into useful citizens. The boys are in no way confined.

The establishment of a Boys' Club and Hostel in August, 1949 has helped to solve some of the major problems confronting homeless youths. The Club, on the lower floor of the building, is open from noon till 8.15 p.m., and provides a radio set, pingpong tables and newspapers; outside these periods football, basket-ball and volley-ball are organised for the boys on a nearby recreation ground. The Hostel on the upper floor can accommodate up to twelve boys and is intended to provide a temporary home for youths between the ages of 14 and 20. The Warden and the Board of Management help the boys to find suitable employment.

In October, 1950, a Girls' Home was established under the management of the Salvation Army. This Home is used as a place of safety under the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance and the categories of girls who could be placed there are: mui tsais, girls who have been trafficked in, girls in need of protection whose guardians cannot be found and girls who have been victims of immoral offences and girls in moral danger, but in no case over the age of 18 years. Aged

destitute females are taken in the Home and given assistance pending the organisation of a Home for the Aged (females). So far, two Officers from the Singapore Salvation Army are in-charge and they work in close co-operation with the Protector of Women and Girls.

The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society has been doing good work during the year. The Kuching Rotary Club has also continued throughout the year its useful voluntary social services, paying regular visits to the Boys' Home, Leper Settlement, Jail and Home for the Aged, assisting disharged prisoners through its Prisoners' Aid Committee and supplying sports equipment for the Boys' Home.

It has also assisted in the provision of equipment for a children's playground and equipment at the Kuching Hospital.

CHAPTER 8.

Legislation.

While the pattern of legislation in the Colony continued along the lines of reform and amendment characteristic of previous years, one feature of the year's legislative programme was the number of amending Ordinances concerned with public security; and in fact a majority of the sixteen amending Ordinances enacted during the year were of this nature, affecting such subjects as registration of aliens, sedition and undesirable persons.

At the three meetings of the Council Negri held during the year, thirty-two Ordinances were enacted, and of those dealing with original subjects the following are possibly the most important—

The *Education Ordinance*, which repealed and replaced the previous Schools Ordinance. The power of controlling schools conferred by the latter Ordinance had been adequate in the conditions then existing, but circumstances had now emphasised the need for a wider control of schools, such as that effected by the new Ordinance.

The *Excise Ordinance*, which made provision for the levying of excise duty on goods or liquors manufactured or distilled within the Colony; this Ordinance enables effective control to be exercised over distilleries, and will make it easier to prevent illicit distillation or manufacture of dutiable goods. With this Ordinance the long history of arrack farming in the Colony came to an end.

The *War Damage Ordinance*, designed to provide machinery for the assessment of war damage claims and for the making of *ex gratia* payments in respect thereof. This Ordinance became necessary on His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agreeing to assist in the financing of a war compensation scheme in the Colony.

The *Cattle (Control) Ordinance*, designed to control the indiscriminate slaughter of cattle in the Colony, and made necessary by the existing shortage of fresh meat in the Colony, a factor encouraging the slaughter of draught animals.

The *Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance*, which provides for arrangements to be made between the Colony and territories within the British Commonwealth of Nations for the simple enforcement of Superior Court judgments under which money is payable, and obtained in one of those territories, against a person residing in another of the territories.

The *Youthful Offenders' Reception Ordinance*, designed to implement the desire of the Government of North Borneo to transfer youthful offenders sentenced to a period of detention by a Court in that Colony to the Boys' Home, Kuching, or to such other place of detention as may be established.

The *Standard Time (Amendment) Ordinance*, which altered the Standard Time for Sarawak from seven and a half hours to eight hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time, and so put an end to certain horological difficulties formerly encountered by travellers between the Colony, Brunei, and North Borneo.

The *National Emblems (Control of Display) Ordinance*, which makes provision for the control and display in public and in schools of any national flag other than the recognised flag of any part of the Commonwealth, and of the exhibition of any national emblem, not being the emblem of any part of the Commonwealth.

The *Public Order Ordinance*, designed to prohibit the wearing of uniforms signifying association with political organisations, and the maintenance of associations of a military or similar character, and to make provision for certain other matters of assistance in the maintenance of public peace and order in the Colony.

Early in the year the legal department was augmented by the arrival in the Colony of an Assistant Attorney-General.

In spite of the substantial progress of the past four years much legislative activity is still necessary if the law of the Colony is to conform to the present needs of society; nevertheless, it must be emphasised that to deal with the legal aspects of social reform, abolish anomalies in existing law and, where possible, attain these desired ends in terms incapable of misinterpretation, is likely to put an increasingly heavy burden upon all concerned with legislation.

CHAPTER 9.

Justice, Police and Prisons.

JUSTICE.

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognized to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the Colony and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

There are two hierarchies of Courts in Sarawak—those constituted under the Courts Ordinance and those constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance.

The Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance, as modified by the later legislation, are the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts, and the various Magistrates' Courts. The Chief Justice constitutes the Supreme Court and the work of that Court lies chiefly in the exercise of appellate and revisional jurisdiction and jurisdiction under the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance. The Circuit Courts are presided over by professional Judges and have unlimited jurisdiction in almost all matters, whether civil or criminal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal), the Court of Small Causes (civil), the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

The Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two

assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

The Supreme Court Library in Kuching suffered during the period of Japanese occupation. Replacements have been made and new books purchased, but the Library must still be regarded as falling a long way short of what is desired. During 1950 the Library was fortunate in obtaining from Australia a complete set of the Law Reports and an almost complete set of the English Reports. This made it possible to transfer the Law Journal Reports to Sibu for the use of the Second Circuit Judge.

Probate and Administration.

In addition to the issuing of grants of probate to the executors and trustees appointed by the wills of deceased persons, and the granting of Letters of Administration in cases of intestacies, the Registrar assumed official administration of eleven deceased persons' estates by virtue of the power vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance. The majority of these estates have during the course of the year been duly administered and the remaining assets and property after payment of the deceaseds' just debts, have been duly distributed amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto according to law and custom.

A particularly large estate fell during the course of the year, which alone paid estate duty and interest amounting to \$29,500.00.

Lunatic Persons' Estates.

Four new lunatic persons' estates were administered by the Official Assignee. Two were landed property owners, and one was a merchant. As curator the Official Assignee took over the management of, and appointed a manager to look after and run, the business. The curator also looked after the welfare of the lunatic's family.

Bankruptcy.

Four bankruptcy petitions were filed during the year. In three cases the debtors, finding that to be a bankrupt would subject them to various disabilities imposed by the Bankruptcy Ordinance, managed to settle the petitioning creditors' claim, upon which the bankruptcy petitions were cancelled.

In one case the petition went through and the debtor duly adjudicated bankruptcy and his estate was administered by the Official Assignee.

Generally, business has been good during the year in the Colony and there was no bankruptcy purely due to failures in business.

Deeds.

There was a slight increase in the number of documents registered under the Registration of Deeds Ordinance during the year over that of 1949. These comprise mortgages, promissory notes, Powers of Attorney, agreements, etc. Thirtly-four Bills of Sale were registered under the Bills of Sale Ordinance.

Business Names and Limited Companies.

Sixty-five new business firms were registered under the Business Names Ordinance. The majority of these are dealers in groceries, piece-goods and general merchandise.

One locally incorporated and twelve foreign limited liability companies were registered. These comprised seven insurance companies, three timber companies, two general merchant companies and one mining company.

Patents and Trade Marks.

Three grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom patents.

Seventeen new trade marks were registered and fifty-eight renewals of registration effected.

An opposition lodged in connection with the application for the registration of a trade mark was heard and determined by the Registrar.



Group of young Malays, Kuching.

Trusts.

In the absence of a Public Trustee in the Colony the Registrar was appointed by the Court to administer two trust estates, which would otherwise be administered by the former.

In the course of his administration the Registrar was involved in a litigation.

Court Fees, Fines, Forfeitures and Deposits.

There was a slight increase in the volume of transactions under this heading over that of last year. In addition to his normal duties, the Registrar is also responsible for the direct supervision of this section.

Money Lenders.

One new Money Lenders' Licence has been issued, and four renewals of licences effected during the year.

Seventeen trade unions were registered up to the end of the year. These comprise five wharf labourers' unions, one coffee shop employers' union, two Government employees' unions, one Chinese grocers' union and one Sarawak clerical (commercial and industrial) service union, one Kuching tin-smiths' (employees) union, one Kuching Chinese shoe-makers employees' union, one Indonesian rubber tappers' union, one Sibu carpentry workers' union and one Sibu hire motor vehicle owners' union.

The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance is now over two years old, and the spirit and intention of trade unionism are slowly but steadily being understood and appreciated by most people.

Amendments were made during the year to the Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance in order to make provision for the reference of disputes to an Arbitration Tribunal, and the inspection of accounts and documents of a trade union, etc.

POLICE.

At the beginning of the year two Chief Inspectors, one Malay and one Dayak, were promoted to gazetted rank. A new Commissioner was appointed in February and the gazetted officer strength was increased later in the year by three more officers on transfer from other colonial territories. The gazetted officer establishment was increased during the year by seven, bringing it to seventeen, and, at the end of 1950, there were still three vacancies.

There were also at the end of the year 17 Inspectors, 8 Sub-Inspectors and 994 NCOs and other ranks. The Force, including Gazetted Officers, was 161 below establishment at the end of the year which is an increase of 104 over the deficiency at the end of 1949. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of resignations. Many of the men are on three-year agreements and are free to resign at the end of that period. The high wages at present available in the booming local industries discourage men from renewing their agreements. There has been a great drop in the number of men discharged for inefficiency. This may be accounted for by the fact that a higher standard of intelligence has been demanded from candidates for the Constabulary and this despite the shortage of material for enrolment.

The racial composition of the Force was :—

| <i>Race.</i> | | <i>Percentage.</i> |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| European | ... | 1.28 |
| Malay | ... | 45 |
| Sea Dayak (Iban) | ... | 30 |
| Land Dayak | ... | 8 |
| Melanau | ... | 8 |
| Murut | ... | .29 |
| Dusun | ... | .09 |
| Kenyah | ... | .29 |
| Kayan | ... | .29 |
| Sikh | ... | 3 |
| Punjabi | ... | .09 |
| Javanese | ... | 1.18 |
| Chinese | ... | 2 |
| Filipino | ... | .49 |

Few suitable candidates have been offering themselves for enlistment and those who did come forward during the year were mainly illiterate or physically below standard. Commercial firms pay much higher salaries than Government can afford, and the local rubber, pepper and sago industries hold out opportunities of higher profits. These circumstances explain the temporary unpopularity of the Constabulary as a career. It is hoped to remedy this situation by new Constabulary Regulations which contain a revised salary scheme for all ranks from Inspectors to Recruits. New Schemes of Service for all ranks have also been compiled and submitted to Government.

Figures showing the intake and output of recruits during the year are :—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Recruits under training, 1-1-50 | ... | ... | 134 |
| Recruits enlisted during the year | ... | ... | 65 |
| Recruits transferred to Sectors during the year | | | 51 |
| Recruits discharged as unlikely to become efficient | ... | ... | 12 |
| Recruits under training, 31-12-50 | ... | ... | 101 |

There were 101 recruits under training in the Depot at the end of the year. The normal course of training takes one year, but, owing to illiteracy amongst recruits on joining, the actual training period is longer in some cases.

The standard of education of members of the Sarawak Constabulary is low compared to that of Forces in neighbouring Colonies. This is to be attributed to the general lack of interest in education in the past. Many of the recruits are illiterate or only semi-literate on joining, and instruction in reading and writing Romanized Malay has to be included in their training curriculum. This slows up their progress considerably, especially in cases where Malay is not the mother tongue.

Government have approved the employment of a number of part-time teachers of English at the main centres. It is hoped that English will become in time the *lingua franca* of the Constabulary. This is especially desirable in view of the diversity of languages spoken in the Constabulary and amongst the people generally.

Steps are being taken to ensure that members of all ranks are given opportunities of further study and training throughout their service. One Inspector and a Constable Instructor completed a three months' course at the Police Training School, Singapore, during 1950, and, when the staffing position has eased, refresher courses for all N.C.Os., including Depot Instructors, will be held regularly at the Depot, Kuching. As a preliminary to the institution of regular post-training study courses for Inspectors, facilities for instruction in higher English were made available to Inspectors at HQ., and Kuching Central during the year, the lessons being given on a voluntary basis. All Gazetted Officers proceeding to the United Kingdom will in future be nominated for courses at

various police centres. The recently-promoted Dayak Officer has been nominated for a course at the Police College, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, in 1951.

A reading room for members of the Inspectors and the Rank and File has recently been opened at the Depot, Kuching.

Examinations.

Two Inspectors were permitted to sit for the Senior Service Law Examination during 1950, and one passed. One Inspector, two N.C.Os., and one Constable passed the Senior Departmental Examination in Law and Police Duties during the year. The new schemes of service, which are under consideration by Government, set a higher and more varied standard for all examinations.

Constabulary training in Sarawak, British North Borneo, and Brunei State is, as far as possible, being conducted on uniform lines. It is hoped that the Brunei State Police will eventually be trained at Constabulary HQ., Kuching.

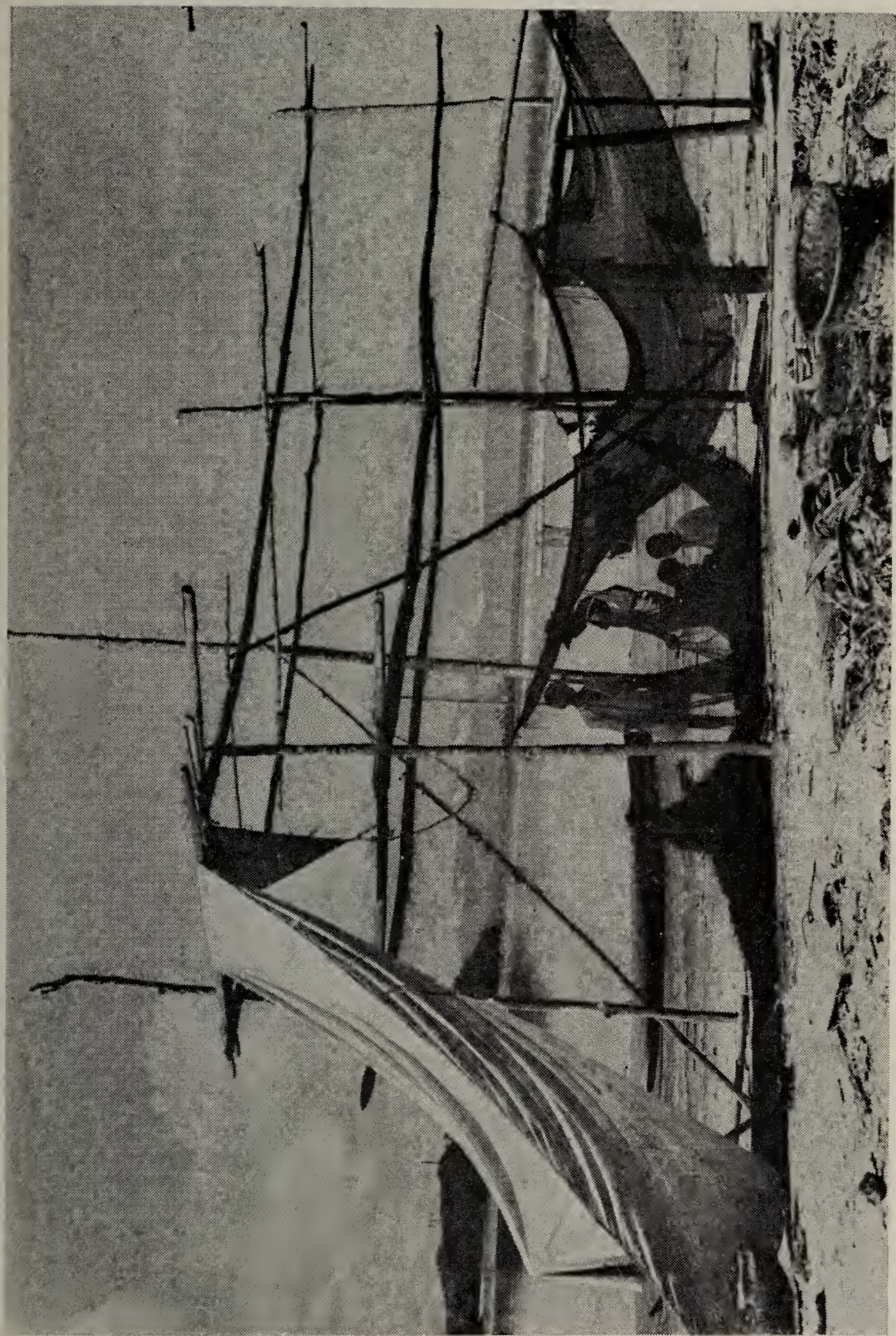
During the year, increased attention was given to welfare matters. Welfare committees for Inspectors and members of the Rank and File were established about mid-year, and they have proved useful media for the introduction of improvements and the clearing up of possible causes of misunderstanding.

In some places, Constabulary canteen arrangements were taken over from the contractors by the men themselves and are now being run on satisfactory lines.

The catering for the recruits at the Depot, Kuching, is now in the hands of the Depot staff, and the recruits are being given excellent food at a minimum cost. As a result, the morale and health of the recruits at the Depot is noticeably higher.

The Constabulary Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society increased its membership to four hundred and forty-four and it grows in popularity.

At the end of 1950, the first Constabulary Co-operative Store was opened at the Constabulary Depot, Kuching, for the benefit of Kuching, HQ., and Depot staff. The membership is now 302. The store has enabled the men to buy essential foodstuffs at more reasonable prices than those demanded in



Drying fishing nets at Santubong at the mouth of the Sarawak River.

the bazaar : this is most important at a time of rapidly rising prices. The store facilities will be extended to other Sectors when success in Kuching has been assured.

Health and Discipline.

The health of the Force was satisfactory during 1950. Absences from duty on medical grounds were not abnormal and were mainly caused by minor ailments. The total number of admissions to hospital was 203 as compared with 187 in 1949, and the total number of men/days spent in hospital was 2,051 as compared with 1,829.

Offences against discipline number 889 as compared with 707 in 1949. The principal offence was absence from duty, of which there were 463 cases, and of these 198 were HQ., and Depot other ranks, being mostly recruits still undergoing training.

The Commissioner was awarded the King's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in the King's Birthday Honours List. 56 members of the Force were awarded the Colonial Police Long Service Medal.

During the year six members of the Rank and File were commended and given monetary rewards and ten were commended for their services.

Constabulary Stations.

There are 54 Constabulary Stations and posts in the Colony. Many of these are situated in places where communications are difficult. The ratio of policemen to population is 1:472.

For administrative purposes the Force is divided into the following Sectors :—

Kuching Sector comprising the area of the First Administrative Division, i.e. an area of about 3,448 square miles;

Simanggang Sector covering the area of the Second Administrative Division, i.e. about 4,028 square miles;

Sibu Sector comprising the whole of the Third Administrative Division, an area of about 22,838 square miles;

Miri Sector which comprises the area of the Fourth and Fifth Administrative Divisions, i.e. about 16,757 square miles, and which includes part of the Oilfields area.

The Constabulary Depot at Kuching.

The Simanggang Sector, which was formed during the year, was formerly part of the Kuching Sector. The break-up of the latter has resulted in more effective control of the new Sector.

Sibu Sector will shortly be divided into the Sibu and Sarikei Sectors. Under present arrangements, control from Sibu Headquarters is difficult.

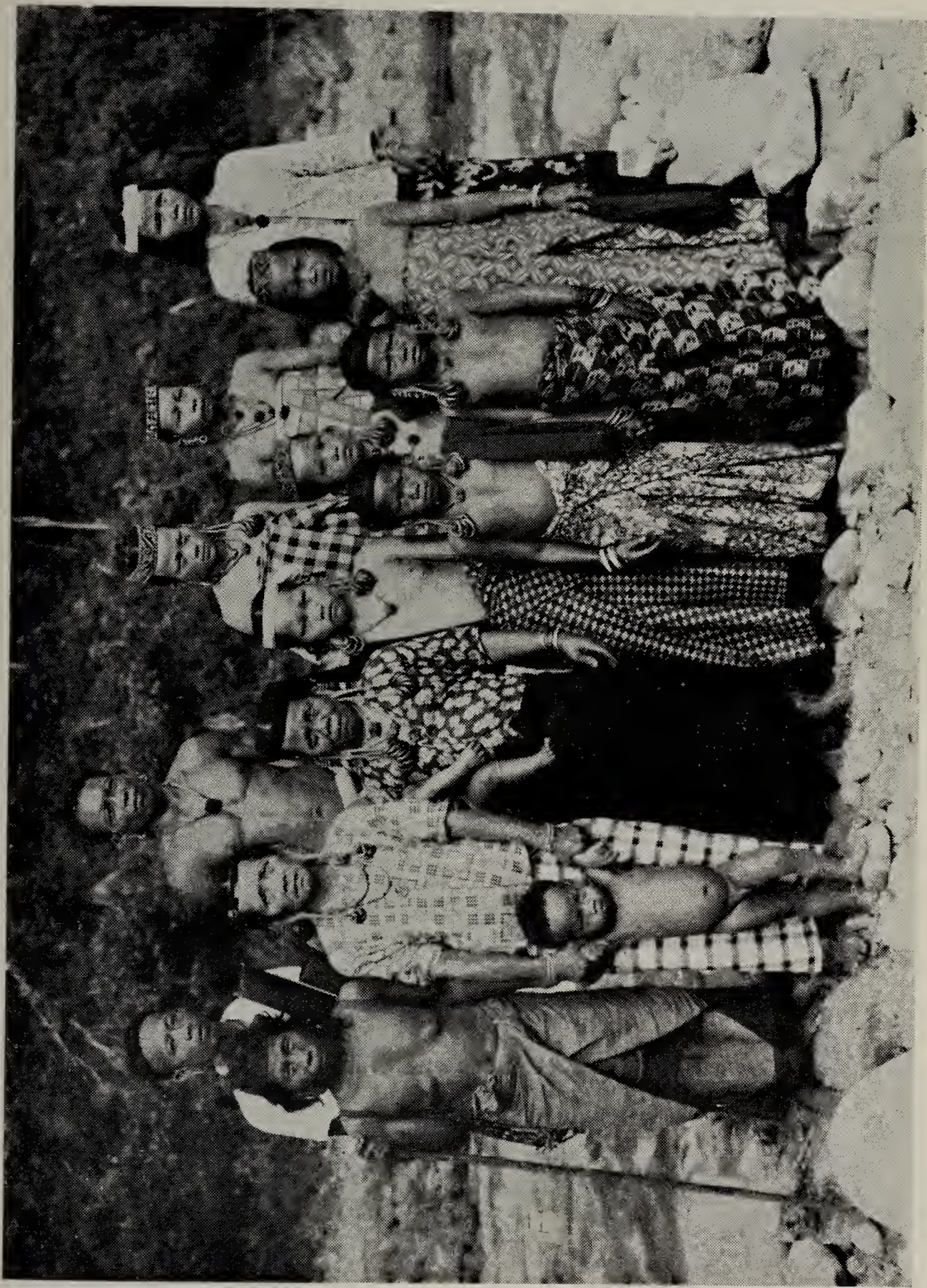
Within the framework of the Headquarters Organisation are: Special Branch, Records Office, Criminal Investigation Department, and Criminal Registry; Stores; Financial Section.

The Special Branch developed its work throughout the year and in November a sub-branch was established at Kuala Belait in the State of Brunei to deal with Special Branch activities in Brunei State and Northern Sarawak.

A new Unit, the Marine and Radio Branch, was formed during the year. For the time being, it comes under the direct control of Headquarters. The branch is in its infancy. By the end of the year eleven VHF sets, three HF sets and six HF pedal-generator had been taken on charge. The Radio Control Room is at Fort Margherita, Kuching. A visit from a Home Office telecommunications expert was expected at the end of the year. The first police launch, the nucleus of a Constabulary marine fleet, was taken into commission during the year.

The Special Constabulary continued to receive training in the main centres of the Colony and at the end of the year its total strength was 295 all ranks.

The Band, which consists of 25 men under a European bandmaster, has continued its regular performances in the Museum Gardens which continued to be well attended by members of the public. It has also attended all Guards of Honour mounted. For the first time since the re-occupation it toured the main centres of the Colony during the year and also attended at regattas and public functions in various parts of the territory. In December it gave its first classical concert in Kuching in aid of the Red Cross.



A group of Kenyans from Long Tebangan on the upper Akar River, Fourth Division. The Kenyahs are bead workers and canoe specialists.

Buildings.

Owing to high building costs and the difficulty of obtaining labour it has become necessary to restrict the rate of erection of much-needed police accommodation. The original Constabulary building programme was based on a three-year plan, but it will now take considerably longer.

Six new houses for Inspectors are in course of construction, and married quarters and stations in the northern part of the territory are comparatively new.

Efforts will be made to replace dilapidated buildings in other areas as soon as economic conditions permit.

A new scheme drawn up in 1949 whereby the number of police stations was to be reduced was dropped.

In 1950 the position in regard to equipment for the Force improved considerably. A quantity of No. 5 rifles was taken on charge to replace unserviceable weapons; steps were taken to increase the number of steel helmets, respirators and riots equipment generally; clothing supplies were built up and it was possible to issue complete new sets of uniform to the regular Constabulary. As there are few roads in the Colony, motor transport is limited. This consists of Land-Rovers, Jeeps, a van, a 12 seater bus and a number of motor cycles. Selected members of the Constabulary were undergoing instruction in the care and maintenance of motor transport with the Sarawak Oilfields Limited at the end of the year. 28 new bicycles were received and distributed during the year.

Security.

During the year a Constabulary Officer was detailed for duty as Constabulary Defence and Security Officer; his responsibilities are the protection of important persons and Constabulary security arrangements generally. Security checks throughout the Colony were organized and approximately 117,000 persons were examined. 43 persons were charged in Court under the Aliens Ordinance or the National Registration Laws as a result of the checks.

A Riot Manual containing detailed instructions for dealing with civil disturbances was drawn up and submitted to Government.

Close liaison in security matters has been maintained with neighbouring territories.

Crime.

During 1950 Sarawak was comparatively free from crime. Total reports of seizable cases were 1,117, compared with 1,232 for 1949, and total convictions were 393 as against 496. There were 9 murders, compared with 8 in previous year. The principal offences continued to be those against property and comparative figures are given below :—

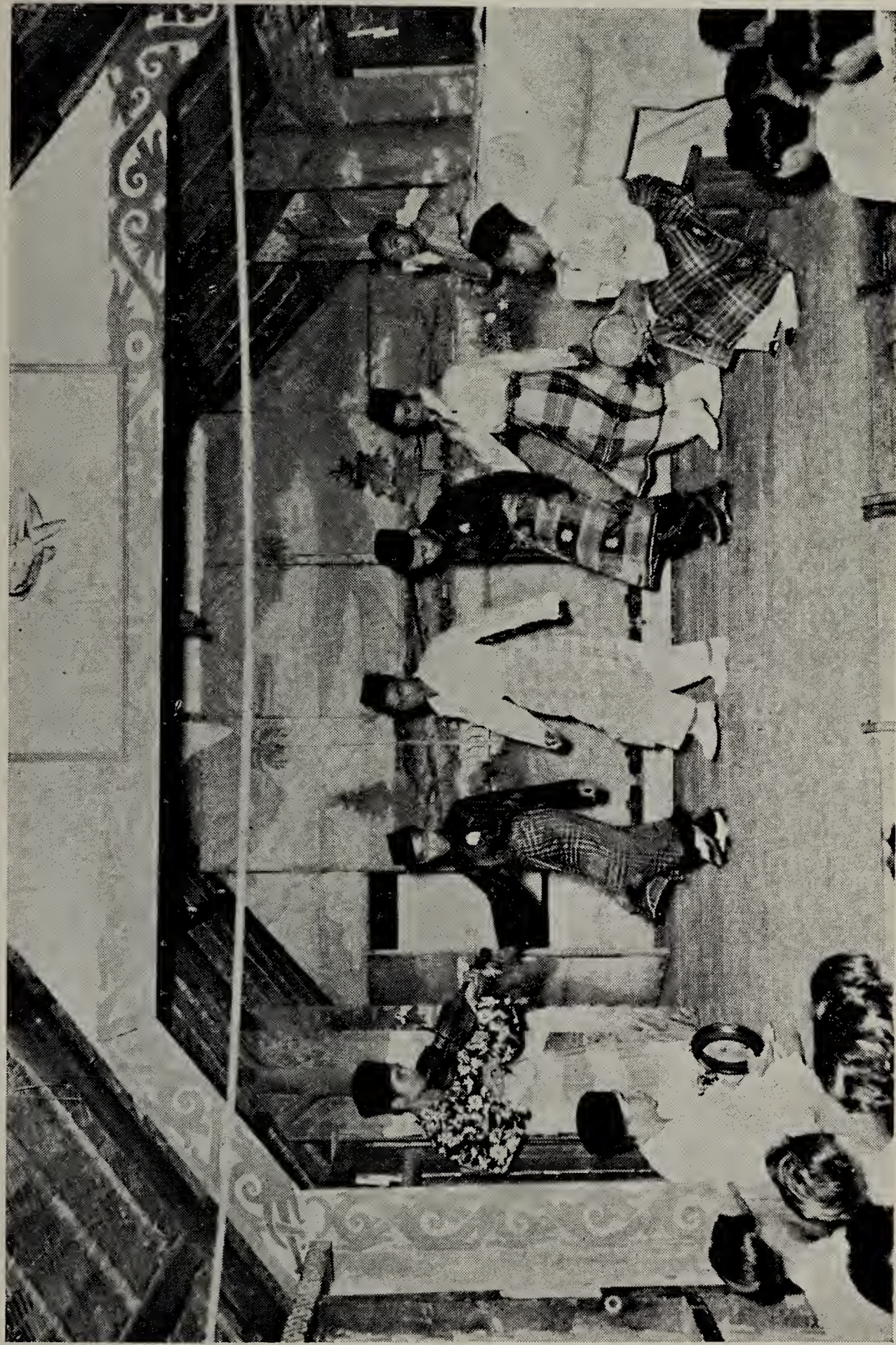
| <i>Offence.</i> | <i>Year.</i> | <i>Reports.</i> | <i>Convictions.</i> | <i>Ratio of reports to convictions.</i> |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Theft and Theft in dwelling | 1946 | 1,653 | 252 | 1 to 6.32 |
| | 1947 | 1,036 | 258 | 1 to 4.01 |
| | 1948 | 879 | 259 | 1 to 3.39 |
| | 1949 | 750 | 232 | 1 to 3.23 |
| | 1950 | 720 | 209 | 1 to 3.44 |
| House-breaking | 1946 | 97 | 13 | 1 to 7.46 |
| | 1947 | 82 | 24 | 1 to 3.41 |
| | 1948 | 114 | 25 | 1 to 4.56 |
| | 1949 | 74 | 11 | 1 to 6.72 |
| | 1950 | 69 | 15 | 1 to 4.60 |

In 16 cases, as compared with 7 in 1949 the property, the subject of theft or theft in a dwelling, was of a value exceeding \$500. 287 reports were in connection with property with \$25 or less. Non-seizable offences under the Penal Code and other Laws were 2,855 as compared with 3,826 in 1949.

PRISONS.

The Prisons Department in the Colony of Sarawak consists of a Central Prison at Kuching, one female prison at Bau, three divisional prisons situated at Simanggang, Sibul and Bintulu and ten small outstation prisons. The remainder, as mentioned in last year's report, have been converted into lock-ups or other Government buildings. The headquarters offices are situated in the Kuching Prison.

The department is administered by a Superintendent, who at present combines this duty with the running of the Kuching Prison, and who is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent.



Malay dancing by students of Batu Lintang Training Centre.

District Officers are appointed as Deputy Superintendents by the Chief Secretary to supervise and run the various outstation prisons.

Administration of the Prisons has been generally satisfactory. The warders who were sent to Singapore for training during 1949 have been of assistance in maintaining a higher sense of discipline and efficiency among the other warders. The Prison establishment has been up to strength for only a few months. With the increased cost of living and the high price of rubber, several have left to earn better wages elsewhere. There has been a steady decrease in the prison population of all prisons in the Colony.

There is still far too little public interest shown in penal administration and prisoners' after-care. Far more co-operation from the general public is necessary to assist both in voluntary classes and after-care work.

All prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards comprised of magistrates and members of the various communities. Prisons' complaints and requests are dealt with by this committee. A Prisoners' Aid Committee has now been formed by Government, and the Kuching Rotary International assist greatly in this matter and in the rehabilitation of prisoners from the Kuching Prison on discharge. The Prison authorities endeavour to assist in obtaining work for prisoners on discharge.

During the course of the year two additional trade parties were established and the revenue for the year reached the figure of \$21,923.11. Prison made bricks are now used for the construction of all Government buildings. Carpenters are making Government furniture and the new tailors' shop has undertaken the contract for Constabulary uniforms and uniforms for other Government departments.

The majority of prisoners appear to have been happy and contented. The prison diet was altered slightly during the year, reducing a prisoner's rice ration by two tahils daily and substituting a banana; this has proved beneficial. There have been no complaints from prisoners regarding diet.

Condemned cells and the drop were completed early in January and a new block of warders' barracks was built at Kuching Prison during the year. This latter has assisted in dealing with the housing problem, but is still far from adequate to house the staff.

A guard house was erected outside the main gate of the Kuching Prison and enables closer check on traffic and on all person entering and leaving the prison.

Perimeter lights around the Kuching Prison were installed during the year and have assisted greatly in security.

Since the beginning of the year a monthly cinema show has been given to prisoners by the Information Office. This has proved a great success.

CHAPTER 10.

Public Utilities and Public Works.

Electricity Supply.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. This Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibuan and Mukah. Government holds the majority of shares, Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore being the other shareholders and General Managers. Since taking over, the policy of the Company has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

At the time of the Japanese occupation in 1941 the Company was operating generating stations at Kuching, Sibuan, Mukah, Sarikei, Binatang, Simanggang and Bintulu, all of which were powered by diesel plant and were supplying lighting at a charge to the consumer of 20 cents per unit. In Kuching the Company also operated an ice factory, the ice being retailed to the public at one cent per pound. When the country was re-occupied by the Allies it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu Stations almost destroyed and the remaining plant was in a very bad condition due to neglect and lack of maintenance.

During 1945-46 the Company was busily engaged on the work of rehabilitating these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Plans were made for extensions of service and orders were placed for plant and materials. Owing to increasing costs of fuel, wages and materials it was found necessary to increase the rates of current by means of a 50% surcharge on pre-war charges. The Company's policy has been to reduce this surcharge as soon as conditions would permit, but it was not possible to do this until January 1st, 1948, when surcharge was discontinued and a revised rate of 27½ cents per unit for lighting came into effect.

Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, work on rehabilitation and extensions has been slow. During 1948 the rehabilitation of Mukah and Bintulu Stations was completed and these are now giving a 12 hour supply daily. In the same year a new station at Betong commenced operation. These stations are 25/50 K.W. capacity only and are primarily for lighting the respective townships. On completion of the change over from D.C. to A.C. at Sibu, additional generating equipment will be available for Binatang, Simanggang and Betong stations.

At Miri the lighting supply prior to the war was taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited plant. During the occupation the Japanese had installed a plant at Miri, which they had removed from Jesselton. This was found to be in very bad condition, but a service had been maintained by Government, with difficulty, until 1947, when the plant was reclaimed by the owners. After negotiations with Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company installed equipment at Miri and commenced the supply of a restricted service in December, 1947. The maximum demand at this station is about 84 K.W. and as output is only 75 K.W. it is necessary to restrict supply nightly. Plans are in hand for improvement of this supply. For reasons of economy and due to the long delays in delivery it is proposed in the first instance to extend the existing D.C. supply by removing and re-erecting the two 100 K.W. D.C. generators now no longer required in Kuching. There is also a proposal to put on order two alternators, to be driven by V. belt, in place of the D.C. generators. It is not, however, expected that the change over to A.C. can be made for two years. In the meantime the supply position in Miri is unsatisfactory, the present plant being inadequate for the increasing demand. A 24 hour supply was given as from the middle of June.

During 1947 a new 140 K.W. A.C. generating set was ordered for the Sibu station. A section of the town was changed over to A.C. in June, 1949, but the new set did not arrive until later in the year. Installation was, however, completed in December, 1949, and two new 25 K.W. A.C. sets were put into commission in June, 1950. At the end of 1950 the peak load was 90 K.W. A.C. and 91.5 K.W. D.C. The final change over from D.C. to A.C. is not expected to be completed until towards the end of 1951.



Five Selakan Land Dayak girls visiting the Talang Talang Islands for the "Semah" fertility rites, 1930. The Selakans are a special group of Land Dayaks living in the south-west corner of Sarawak.

In Kuching the new 400 K. W. set, partly erected in 1947 was still awaiting further engine parts at the end of 1949. These parts finally arrived early in 1950 and the plant was put on load for the first time in the beginning of May. The new supercharger for the 468 K.V.A. set arrived and was fitted in January, 1950, with a consequent considerable increase in output. It was thus possible to discontinue all load shedding as from the middle of January and a full supply was maintained throughout the year.

Owing to increases in the price of fuel oil it became necessary to increase the price for lighting and fans from 27½ cents per unit to 30 cents per unit as from June 1st, 1950.

The maximum demand on the Kuching station for the year was 733.2 K.W. A.C. and 30.8 K.W. D.C. in December. The total units generated were 2,354,422 as compared with 2,193,892 or an increase of 6.84%.

Direct current supplies at Bintulu, Mukah, Binatang, Sarikei, Betong and Simanggang were maintained throughout the year.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company also operates an Ice Factory in Kuching. In April a new plant was installed which gives an output of 4 tons per day, making a total output available of 8 tons per day. There has been a considerable increase in the public demand. This demand is, however, a fluctuating one and the Company proposes in the first place to increase the cold storage space for ice.

Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works.

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly owned Establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management and carries a staff of 43 permanent employees with a European Manager in charge.

The drydock opened during the year 1912 is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, with pumping machinery to deal with water below the tide level.

A steam driven jib crane with a lifting capacity limited to 5 tons is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the drydock is a slipway constructed for launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam.

The machine shop is equipped with electric and oxyacetylene welding apparatus, small brass melting furnace and a range of machine tools suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels, Public Works Plant, factory equipment and other utilities requiring mechanical engineering service.

The machine tools are fitted with individual drives from alternating current motors using current from the town supply.

During the year ending December 31st, 1950, 48 vessels were drydocked and 14 launches slipped for repairs.

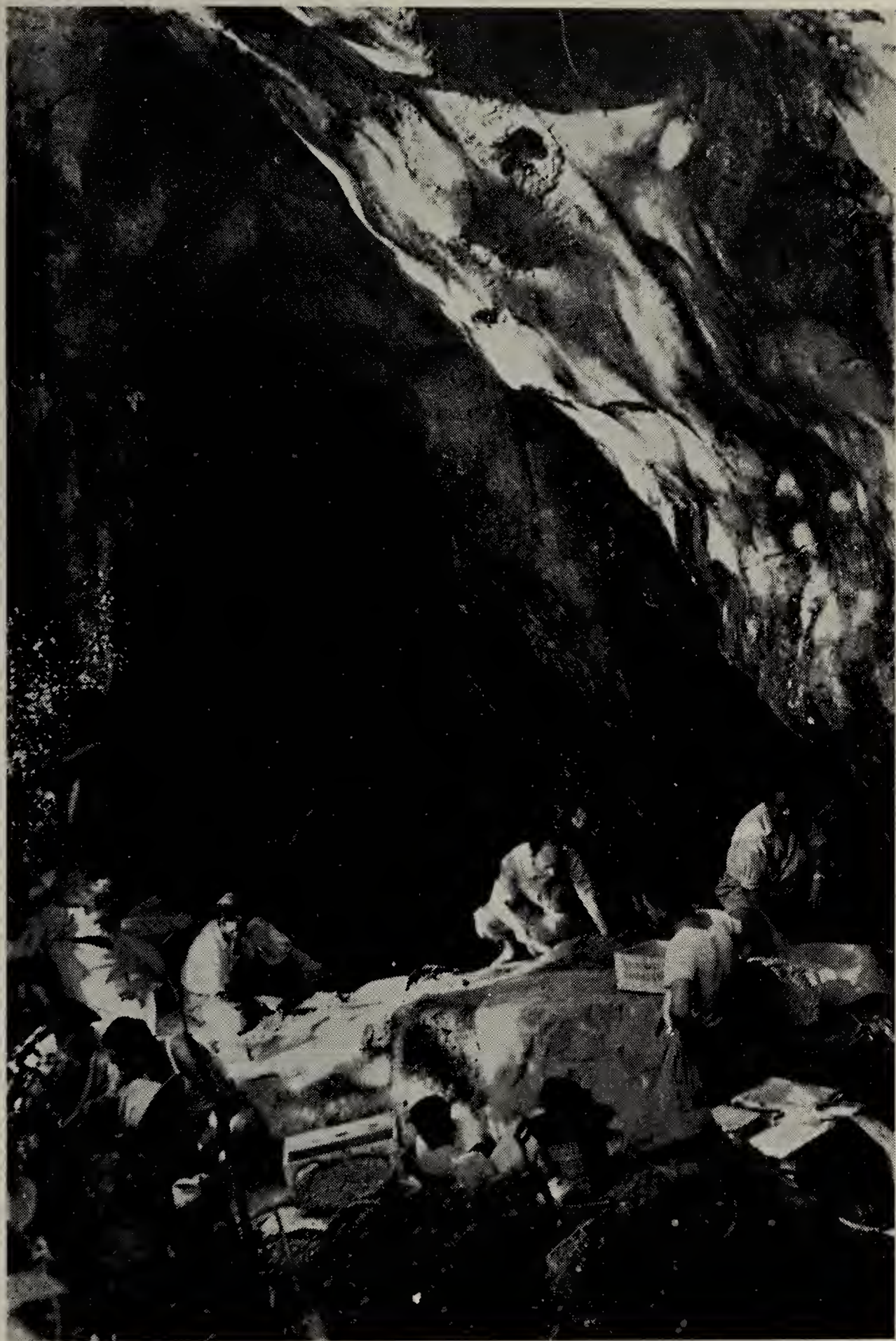
Water Supplies.

Kuching.

The source of supply is at Matang, a mountain of 3,000 feet, about ten miles west of Kuching. The catchment area is a Waterworks Reserve. The quality of the water is excellent and it is not treated in any way. The collection system consists of diversion dams in four foundation streams and one small impounding reservoir. The dams are at a suitable height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The mountain rises abruptly from the coastal plain and investigations over a period of many years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. The water is collected and brought to Kuching through three quarters of a mile of open channel, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 9" pipe, three quarters of a mile of 12" pipe, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 14" pipe and 5 miles of 16" pipe. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River on a 700 foot span suspension bridge which was erected for this purpose. During heavy rain the control valves at the diversion dams are closed and the water supply is taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching.

The distribution system consists of thirty miles of pipe varying in size from 3" to 9" diameter. The service reservoirs consist of one 2 million gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower. There are also two old reservoirs in the town which are at too low a level to be used with the present system except by pumping.

The number of services connected to the system is approximately 2,631 and all private services are metered. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons with a



Excavating in the Bungoh caves at Bau, a neolithic type shell heap.

minimum charge of \$1 per month. The smallest size of meter is provided free and there is a small rent for the larger sizes.

Since the war the increase in population, and the poor state of the service pipes and meters resulted in an increased consumption. It has been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours per day throughout the year. Nevertheless the consumption during 1950 averaged 1,195,342 gallons per day. Work on the replacement of defective services and the overhaul of meters has progressed so far as supplies have permitted, but there still remains much to be done.

The main pipeline from Matang was due for replacement before the war owing to severe corrosion of the steel pipe. The first consignment of 3 miles of 15" Class D cast iron pipes arrived during 1948 and the balance delivered in 1949-50. Laying of these pipes commenced in May and 868 lengths were laid during the year making a total length of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The replacement of this pipeline will give an improved supply except during period of draught but the increasing demand necessitates provision of an additional supply. Surveys in connection with this have been carried out during the year.

During 1948 the sub-fluvial pipe at Padungan was relaid (1,100 feet of 4" galvanised steel pipe) and the pipeline along Batu Lintang road was extended as far as Rock Road. (1,200 feet of 6" cast iron pipes). During 1949 the sub-fluvial pipe at Thompson road was relaid (860 feet of 4" galvanised steel pipe) and an additional distribution main was laid to the Padungan area (1,070 feet of 9" cast iron pipe). Replacement of the old emergency pump and pump house at the lower reservoirs was completed during the year.

Work was begun in February on the preparation of the site for the construction of an additional pressed steel storage tank (1,600,000 gallons capacity). The tank has been delivered and the concrete foundations were nearing completion at the end of the year in readiness for erection in March, 1951.

Simunjan and Bau.

Gravity water supplies exist at Simunjan and Bau, the water being of good quality, but the mains and distribution pipes are extremely badly corroded and the supplies are inadequate and unsatisfactory. Schemes for the renovation of these supplies are in preparation and financial provision for putting the work in hand is being made.

Sibu.

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of 1947 in Sibu. The operation involves pumping by centrifugal pumps from the Rejang river to a purification plant and the pumping of the purified water to storage tanks approximately 90 feet above the level of Sibu town, thence by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar, with branch and booster station for the supply of outlying districts.

The number of services increased during the year by 23% from 475 to 584. If this rate of increase is maintained for another year the present waterworks will be too small; advantage has, therefore, been taken of the proposed change-over by the Electrical Company to A.C. to allow for the installation of more powerful electric motors which are calculated to increase the output of water by 40%

Mukah.

The entire water installation including pumps, motors, piping and tanks was removed by the Japanese.

Financial limitations precluded anything more than a start being made on the new waterworks at Mukah, but $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of roadway were completed to form access to the pumping station and also to provide support for the pumping main. The deviation of the electric main was completed during the year and orders placed for some of the pipe mains and for the electric motors and pumps. They are expected in 1951.

The scheme envisages pumping from the Petanak river, chemical precipitation and sedimentation, filtration, chlorination and gravity supply as at Sibu but on a smaller scale. A feature of the scheme is the wide use of asbestos cement pipes to obviate deterioration by corrosion found to be so bad at Mukah in the pre-war waterworks.

Sarikei, Binatang and Tanjong Mani.

The towns of Sarikei and Binatang and ships calling at Tanjong Mani are supplied by the use of a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu. As in 1949, 1950 was a wet year and the amount of water supplied to Sarikei and Binatang was substantially the same as last year, but the amount supplied to ships at Tanjong Mani increased to 1,950 tons.



A Malay couple, Kuching.

Miri.

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited water mains under the pre-war arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply Government Quarters at Tanjong Lobang and Brighton.

Bintulu.

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000 gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos pipe acts as a distributing main. The water is of very good quality and requires no purification.

Limbang.

A limited gravity supply of good water is available at Limbang.

Public Works.

In Kuching a new reinforced concrete building for the Government Printing Office was begun and is expected to be completed during the first half of 1951. Plans for the proposed new Customs Import warehouse were prepared and orders placed for the steel framework. No construction work has yet started owing to unexpected delays in delivery and information has now been received that delivery cannot be expected in the near future.

As in 1949 the building programme was mainly the construction of quarters, police barracks, warders barracks, junior and senior officers houses.

In Kuching the progress on housing was handicapped by difficulty in obtaining sufficient sites within a reasonable distance of the town and the water and lighting services. A scheme for the development of two areas, one for Junior Service quarters and one for Senior Service quarters, was eventually completed. These residential areas are situated at Batu Lintang and should be adequate for housing requirements for the next two or three years.

Blocks of barracks were completed or in progress at the Jail, Bau, Badrudin road, Po Point lighthouse, and the Airport. The average cost worked out at approximately \$2,350 per family but prices increased rapidly during the second half of the year.

Seventeen Native Officers and Junior Service quarters were either completed or in progress in Kuching, Bau, Tebakang and Serian. At Tebakang, a new Government Office with quarters was nearing completion.

Additions and alterations were made to the kitchens, lecture rooms and children's ward at the General Hospital.

Three Senior Service quarters were completed and blocks of six single storey flats begun.

Junior Service Quarters were built at Simanggang, Engkilili, Betong, Debak and Saratok and barracks at Simanggang. At Kabong extensive repairs and renovations were made to station buildings.

A 120 ft. high lighthouse on a steel tower was erected at Tanjong Sirik during the year on behalf of the Marine Department. A wharf, enginehouse, and two quarters for lighthouse keepers were also completed.

A total of 31 Junior Service Quarters, 5 Police Barracks, one Native Officers Quarters, two Senior Service bungalows, one Senior Service Visiting quarters and one Wireless Station were either completed or under construction.

A new Market was built at Sarikei.

The following additions to the Sibü Hospital were put in hand:—one Nurses quarters, one Mental Ward, two blocks latrines, and extension to kitchen. It had been intended also to construct an Outpatients Department and Tuberculosis Ward but tendered prices proved too high and these works were deferred.

The Sibü Rest House was completed early in the year.

Work on the new Miri Bazaar has made very good progress. The first two shophouses were occupied during the month of February and by the end of the year 53 shophouses were completed and 17 in progress.

The construction of the new Government Offices at Miri was started late in October. All Government departments with the exception of Customs, Police and P.W.D. will be housed in this building. A P.W.D. office, garage and workshop was started during the year and it is proposed to commence construction of the Police Station in 1951.

Six police barracks were built at Miri, also 8 Junior Service quarters and one Native Officers quarters. At Baram two Junior Service quarters and one Native Officers quarters and at Bintulu one Native Officers quarters were erected.

Building construction in the Fifth Division was as follows :—

Limbang.

4 Junior Service Quarters.

1 block barracks.

1 Oil store.

1 Padi store.

1 P.W.D. store.

1 Agricultural office.

One padi store was built at Lawas, one at Sundar and one at Ukong. A new hospital and Senior Service quarters were in progress at Lawas and at Long Semado and Bah Kelalan new forts were under construction.

Staff.

The staff position is still acute. Three engineers arrived on first appointment during the year and one left the service. One engineer was posted on secondment as assistant to the State Engineer in Brunei.

The rising costs and difficulties in obtaining materials have added to the already heavy duties of the staff but these duties have been carried out willingly and the staff is to be congratulated on the year's achievements.

CHAPTER 11.

Communications.

Water.

The rivers and the sea afford the principal means of communication, there being few roads and only one airport in the Colony.

The weekly service between Kuching and Singapore and between Rejang River and Singapore was maintained with fair punctuality by the Sarawak Steamship Company Limited. The weekly service between Miri and Singapore was run by Straits Steamship Company vessels.

The monthly service between Kuching, Pending and North Borneo, calling at Miri, was maintained by the Straits Steamship Company vessel S.S. "Marudu". This service is not entirely satisfactory, there being considerable need to increase the number of calls per month at Pending. On occasion both passengers and freight have not been accepted by the vessel at Pending, although they had been accepted by the steamer's agents at Kuching.

One Kuching shipper has been asking for space to ship 40 (at least) head of buffalo from North Borneo, but because there is only one ship calling at Pending he has been unable to import any. This is regrettable as it would have a considerable effect on the economy of the country.

Coastal services have been maintained fairly regularly by the Sarawak Steamship Company vessels, "Timbali", "Ong Tiang Swee" and "Meluan". There is, however, a back log of freight piling up in most of the coastal ports especially with timber and commodities required for internal consumption. Cargo for export appears to be getting priority and the distribution of commodities required for internal construction and economic purposes has been badly disrupted. To handle the requirements of the coast a fleet of at least double the number is required. Tatau, which produces billian timber practically exclusively for Sarawak use, is a badly neglected port and there are some two or three hundred tons of timber for which shippers are crying out for shipping space.

The smaller class of coastal craft, mainly Chinese owned, are reaping a rich harvest in freight in mainly consumable commodities and returning to Kuching with exportable cargo.

A considerable number of them are tied ships i.e. sago carriers. In the main these vessels are not built or maintained to a high standard, and in consequence are beginning to suffer restrictions in passengers and cargo carrying capacity through not being up to the required survey standards. Unless some improvement in new construction and replacement of craft takes place at a fairly early date those restrictions may have serious effects. Efficiency of craft and machinery must be maintained and safety of passengers, crew and cargo assured, so there can be no question of relaxing survey standards. On the contrary, the standards required with regard to construction, strength, reliability of machinery, life saving and fire-fighting equipment, accommodation for crews and passengers will be increased.

River transport is maintained entirely by Chinese launches. The service is in the main satisfactory, but as both cargo and passengers are carried at the same time, trips of more than a few hours cannot be comfortable.

Government supply vessels have been fully employed. The "Lucille" made an approximate monthly run between Kuching and the Fifth Division via coastal ports. This vessel has suffered severe criticism with regard to the regularity of its schedule. Because of the variety of calls for her services it is virtually impossible to fix any time table. A few of the extra trips are as follows :

Special trips with six months supply of benzine for Bintulu District, to Lundu to relieve congestion of goods after bazaar had burnt down, to Simanggang to bring Ferret Force recruits and labour to Kuching, to bring urgently required rice to Brunei, and timber from Bintulu and Tatau to Sibu and Kuching.

Ocean carriers calling at Tanjong Mani are more than in 1949, at least 30 vessels calling in 1950. The Bums Philip vessels Braeside and Bumside which gave connection with Australia ceased calling at the end of the year. However, other shipping concerns have been making inquiries and it is hoped that direct sea connection between Sarawak and many distant countries may develop.

Oil Tankers calling at Miri show a considerable increase in numbers and tonnage over 1949.

The demands on Government administrative launches increased steadily during the year. New launches put into service were "Aline" at Miri, and "Jolly Bachelor" at Sibü, both sea-going; the "Rainbow", a special bar launch for Miri; and a reconditioned "Mermaid". Two launches were withdrawn from service, one W. Boat considered not reconditionable, and M.L. "Karina" which are turned over to buoys and lights service.

A new 120' open steel-work tower was erected at Tanjong Sirik, and a reliable although temporary light established. New quarters were also completed. Power houses were constructed and major repairs to quarters carried out at other lighthouses. To improve daylight navigational aids at Kuala Rejang three beacons were erected, but before the end of the year two of them had collapsed through erosion. The total progress for the year for renewal of coastal lights fell far short of that hoped for.

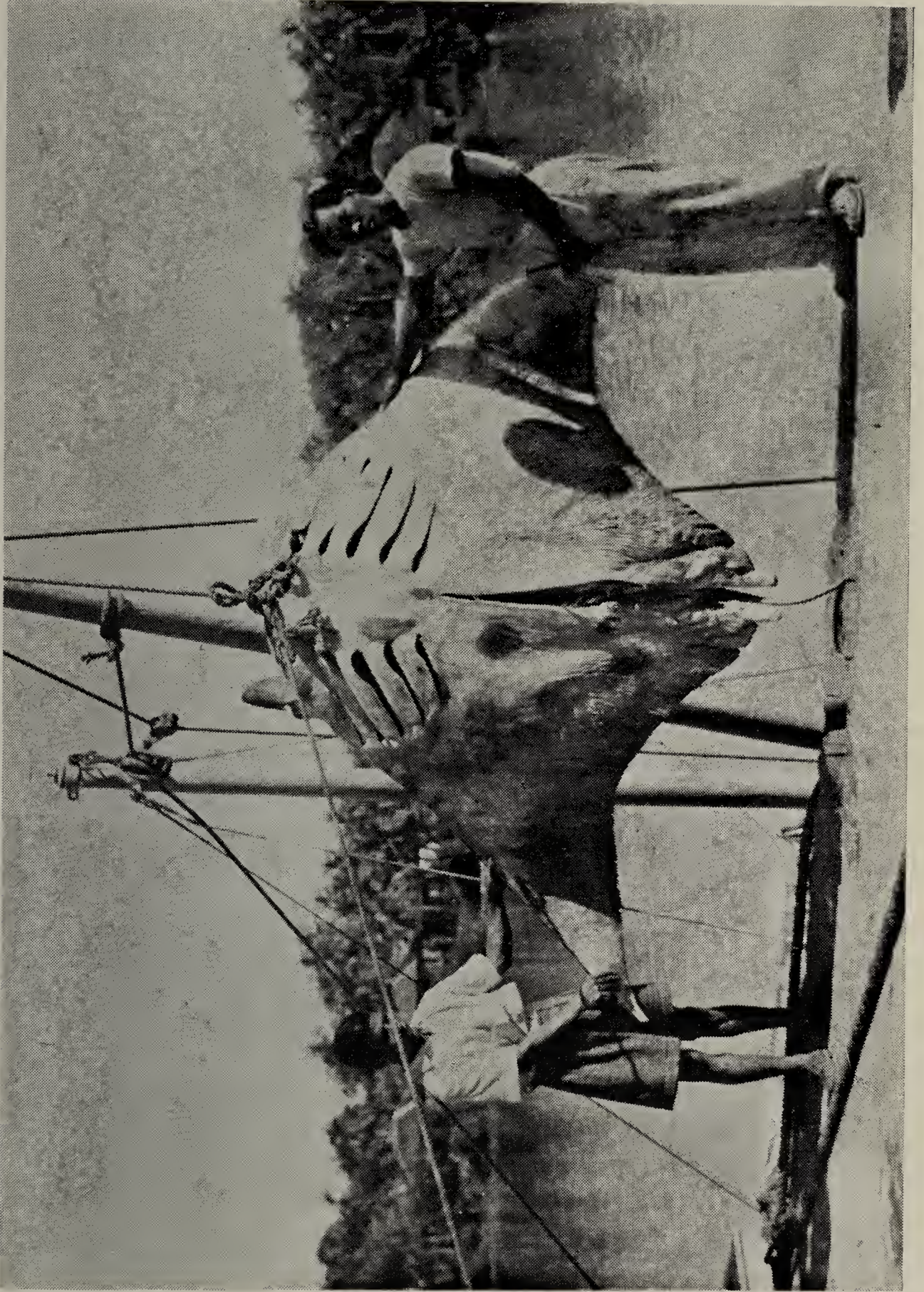
Two ships of the Royal Navy visited Sarawak during the year H.M.S. "Whitesand Bay" came to Sibü and H.M.S. "Cardigan Bay" to Kuching in March.

Twelve vessels suffered casualties, five from collisions, six from minor groundings and one from fire. Two were total losses, the others suffered various degrees of damage. There was no loss of life. Forty-eight new vessels of all classes were registered in 1950.

Air.

Before the Japanese occupation two landing grounds existed which were suitable for the operation of the lighter types of aircraft. These were situated at Miri and Kuching.

On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground, which lies 7 miles to the South of the town, had one metalled strip of approximately 1,000 yards length and 50 yards width, in almost serviceable condition. The remainder of this area was dotted with bomb craters and was, therefore, quite unserviceable. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width was carried out pending a decision regarding the construction of a suitable airport for present day requirements. During 1947 investigations were made for the realignment of the runway in order to provide a minimum length of 1,200 yards, and a preliminary estimate was made. This project



Rear view of a giant ray.

was, however, later abandoned as the approaches were considered to be unsatisfactory for modern aircraft, and the proposed 1,200 yard runway could not have been extended at reasonable cost at a later date. A search had, therefore, to be made for a suitable site elsewhere, which was found in jungle country less than 1 mile to the North of the existing runway. Here there were no approach obstructions, comparatively little earthwork was anticipated and there were possibilities for extension to over 2,000 yards. In 1948 approval of a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was given and work was put in hand on this project.

Progress in the construction of this new airport was disappointing during 1948 due to unusually heavy rainfall and unreliable equipment. Late in December the opportunity of acquiring some new equipment was taken and two new bulldozers and scrapers were delivered. By the end of 1949 good progress had been made in spite of delays in obtaining spare parts for machinery and other materials.

The new Airport is designed to provide an all weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide. Consolidated grass surfaced safety verges 75 yards wide are to be provided on each side of the runway and at each end of the runway a consolidated grass surfaced overrun 200 yards in length is being constructed. An asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar construction is provided adjacent to the airport building. The building provides for control tower, signals room, meteorological office, waiting and refreshment room, office, customs, immigration and health accommodation. Work progressed satisfactorily during the year under review and on September 26th His Excellency the Governor formally opened the new Airport. Since this date schedule services have been maintained without interruption.

Malayan Airways Limited, operating twice-weekly through Kuching on the Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore route, proved insufficient to cope with increasing traffic; and during May, 1950, an additional weekly schedule, Singapore-Kuching-Singapore, was instituted. This service was maintained until 14th July when traffic requirements over the remainder of the Borneo route justified extension to Sandakan, thereby establishing three schedules weekly through Kuching, Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore.

During 1950 a total of 270 landings were effected by Malayan Airways Limited. Two of these were made at night, utilizing portable emergency-flarepath facilities. Throughout the year they have landed 909 passengers in Kuching, uplifted 944, and carried 1,667 in transit.

Kuching has, in the past—chiefly by reason of Malayan Airways Limited utilization of this type of aircraft—been almost entirely connected with DC3 operations. Classification of the new airport according to ICAO specifications, however, establishes it in category E5 with a runway bearing capacity of 30,000 pounds per single isolated wheel load, thereby permitting operation of much heavier machines. In addition, Kuching Airport has been organized and equipped in accordance with the terms of Articles 5 and 8 of the 1944 International Sanitary Convention of Aerial Navigation, and also conforms to the requirements of Article I (ii) of the same Convention. The World Health Organization has accordingly been requested to confirm this airport as an “Authorized Aerodrome”, or “Sanitary Aerodrome”, and “as constituting a local area”. Such classifications will, therefore, justify designation of Kuching as an International Airport.

Development and operation of Navigational, Approach, and Landing facilities covering Sarawak territory and Kuching Airport was undertaken on a three-year contractual basis by International Aeradio Limited. Despite unavoidable delays in manufacture and shipment of radio equipment progress had been very encouraging. Throughout the year under review Kuching Airport has provided Approach and Aerodrome Control facilities on two VHF and one HF radio-telephone channels, VHF Direction-Finding for homing aircraft to the Airport, one W/T channel guarding the aircraft “enroute” communication frequency, and Point-to-Point communications with Singapore and North Borneo. In addition, a radio-beacon operated by Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kuching, has been installed as an Approach and Let-down and also a Route Navigational facility.

It is proposed to begin work in 1951 on the reconstruction of the airfield at Sibu originally started by the Japanese and later destroyed by Allied air action. It is intended to provide a consolidated gravel surfaced runway 1,200 yards long by 50 yards wide. This will serve as an alternate to Kuching and will probably be used for schedule services.

The grass surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited who operate for their private use one amphibian and one land aircraft.

Railways.

Until the year 1933 a metre gauge railway carrying passengers and freight was operated by the Public Works Department between Kuching and 10 miles to the South of the town. This area was also served by a road, and consequently operational losses of the railway over such a short distance became so heavy that the passenger and freight service was closed down.

The only quarries in the Colony are situated at the 7th Mile and are dependent on the railway for economical transport of crushed stone to Kuching. The Government, therefore, continued to use the railway for the transportation of stone until the Japanese occupation. On resumption of the Civil Administration the years of neglect had rendered the three steam locomotives useless for further service and the track was left in very bad condition.

During 1949 a Ruston Hornby Diesel Locomotive arrived and nine of the old steel open trucks were put in running order. The line was cleared as far as the 7th Mile, bomb damage made good, and damaged sleepers replaced. It is now possible to bring equipment by rail to the new airfield and bring back stone from the quarries to Kuching.

Roads and Vehicles.

The main method of transportation in Sarawak, both for passengers and freight, is by inland water and coastal routes. Kuching, Sibuan and Miri have a small network of roads with earth roads branching to outlying agricultural, rubber and forest districts but there are no connecting trunk roads.

There is a road from Kuching to Serian, 40 miles in length, which will ultimately become part of the main trunk route to Simanggang and thence to Sibuan. Twelve miles of this road has a bitumen macadam all weather surface, twenty miles is a rough waterbound macadam and the remaining 8 miles is unsurfaced. Work is in progress on a scheme to complete the surfacing of this road and construct the new road section of approximately 90 miles from Serian to Simang-

gang. This scheme is financed by a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Throughout 1950 a detailed engineering survey of the new section has been in progress and it is expected that this survey will be completed during the first half of 1951 and the construction commenced of the first section from Serian to the Sadong river crossing including the bridge.

The year has been notable for the adverse effect of the rubber and pepper boom on road construction and maintenance. Labour costs have risen steeply and labour is only obtainable with difficulty, the less arduous and highly remunerative work of rubber tapping being much more attractive than the more strenuous work of jungle surveying and road construction. This has resulted in serious delays in progress and high costs.

The following is an approximate census of road miles in the Colony:—

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
| (1) All weather, bitumen or concrete surfaced road | ... | ... | 70 miles. |
| (2) Metalled roads | ... | ... | 84 ,, |
| (3) Earth roads suitable for motor traffic under fair weather conditions | ... | ... | 118 ,, |
| (4) Unmetalled pathways and cycle tracks | ... | ... | 195 ,, |

Kuching Roads.

Two major works were undertaken during 1950. A completely new $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of road was constructed to connect the Pending road with Padungan road. It is 21 feet in width with an all weather bitumen macadam surface. Including the construction of two small reinforced concrete bridges the cost of this road worked out at the equivalent of \$81,000 per mile.

The reconstruction of 1 mile of Datus road was almost completed at the year end. This is a filled road through a large Malay Kampong area, subject to tidal floods. Early in the new year the laying of an all weather bitumen macadam surface on this section will be completed.

Other works included reconstruction of culverts, resurfacing, regrading and general maintenance of existing roads.



Chula, last of the Serus, a group once dominated in the Saratok district and exterminated largely by their own violence.

The construction of 10 miles of earth road from the 32nd mile Serian road to Sungei Ensengie was stopped at the 6th mile in August. This work was also being undertaken in connection with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. The work was suspended for economic and administrative reasons.

The increase in weight and number of vehicles on the roads, the frequent and heavy rainfall and the scarcity and high cost of labour have all contributed to a serious deterioration of unsurfaced roads. Modern traffic requirements make it essential that these roads be reconstructed and provided with all weather surfaces.

There was no new road work carried out in the 2nd Division but survey gangs were working there in connection with the new Serian-Simanggang road project.

Road communications throughout the 3rd Division were not satisfactory during the year. The amount of traffic on the Sibuluan roads increased by 35% and an unusually wet year made conditions so bad that many of the roads had to be closed to traffic.

No new construction work was carried out and surfacing and metalling was greatly hampered by the shortage of stone and gravel. There are no quarries in the 3rd Division and stone cannot be supplied from Kuching at economical cost. Sibuluan and indeed most of this division is dependent therefore on the use of gravel taken from river beds. The continuous wet weather which had maintained high water levels in the river had made it necessary to go far afield for gravel. This and the rising wages has made the cost of gravel prohibitive. Special investigations are now being made for new sources of gravel supplies and stone.

During the year the construction of wide but short lengths of new bazaar roads at Miri in the 4th Division was undertaken. These formed access to the new bazaar. These roads were provided with double carriage ways each 21 feet wide with central raised islands and concrete roadside drains. A little over 60% of the new bazaar roads was completed. Here also no stone is available and crushed brick and concrete rubble was the material mainly used.

The Tanjong Lobang road in Miri has been resurfaced. This forms part of the Miri-Bulat Satap road and frequently carries vehicles of up to 20 tons.

In the 5th Division the Penduruan road in the Limbang district is the most important. It is an unsurfaced earth track about 10 miles long and carries a limited number of motor vehicles. The Limbang-Brunei road formation has been completed on a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. If this road is to be used regularly for the purpose of inter state communication it will, of course, become necessary to surface it.

Another work carried out on a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant is the reconditioning of the Lawas-Trusan road.

Vehicles and Equipment.

Much trouble was experienced during the year in maintaining the large quantities of crushed stone required from the 7th Mile quarries for the Airport runway construction, roads and buildings. This was mainly due to prolonged delays in the delivery of replacements for the stone elevating plant from the crushers which when they eventually arrived were found to be wrongly designed. The cause of this has now been traced and the matter is being rectified.

A new stone drying plant was delivered during the year and this working in conjunction with an asphalt mixing plant was put into operation towards the end of the year.

One new 2-ton truck was purchased for use in Sibul and one 3-ton truck for Miri. Two 6-ton diesel rollers were delivered for Kuching, one 3½-ton roller for Sibul, one for Limbang and one for Miri. A Commer 25 cwt. Station Waggon was supplied for the across river bus service in Kuching.

Maintenance of the ex-military trucks and jeeps continued during the year. These are now rapidly becoming unserviceable and are being replaced as and when possible.

Maintenance of tractors has been extremely difficult. This equipment has been employed mainly on Airport construction work and has been operating on very abrasive soils. The resulting wear to tracks and track parts has been serious and replacement parts have not been forthcoming; consequently the number of machines unserviceable at any time has been unusually high.



Jars containing human bones, probably of children, in country now inhabited by Sea Dayaks but previously the home of the Serus.

Posts and Telecommunications.

There are post offices at all administrative centres, and wireless telegraph stations at the more important centres and outlying stations. Where possible, outstations are linked by line telephone to the nearest administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

There were 37 post offices in operation during 1950. The air mail service was operated by Sabah Airways Ltd. An extra service every Friday between Singapore and Kuching was introduced in May, in addition to the bi-weekly service between Singapore and Kuching and North Borneo hitherto maintained. In July this extra service was dropped and a regular thrice weekly service between Singapore and North Borneo via Kuching was begun. Air correspondence handled during the year was:

(ordinary) despatched 227,400, received 203,450;

(registered) despatched 24,936, received 13,628.

The new permanent issue of stamps of 15 denominations was on sale on January 3rd, 1950, and the Universal Postal Union commemorative stamps, which had been on sale since October 10th 1949 were withdrawn on January 9th.

The wireless telegraphy stations at Mukah and Kanowit were removed to Kubu in May and July. The external telegraph traffic handled during the year amounted to 760,338 words despatched, and 730,298 words received. Internal traffic was 2,076,528 words by Government, and 854,464 words by others. Charges for all classes of telegrams were revised in July.

Four stations were installed with new 12-line telephone switchboards. They were Mukah, Binatang, Bintulu and Betong. A new 50-line switchboard was installed at Simanggang in December, and the Lawas/Trusan/Sundar line was completed. The line from Lundu to Simatan was reconstructed.

CHAPTER 12.

Control and Development of Lands.

Organisation.

One Department is responsible for the alienation of Crown Lands to settlers, the registration of title to land including the settlement of existing rights, the cadastral survey on which title registration is based, and the collection of Land Revenue.

Except in Divisional Headquarters all Land Work is done through the District Officer who is thus enabled to supervise the settlement of Crown Lands and the development of his district. Final approval of an application and the issue of title after survey is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys in each Division to whom the application is sent if accepted by the District Officer.

In each Divisional Headquarters is the Land Registry for the Division to which is sent for registration in the Land Register the necessary attested documents for transfers, charges, and probate matters after preparation in the District Office. After registration these are returned to the parties concerned through the same channel.

Close liaison is maintained between Administrative Officers and Land and Survey Officers.

Policy.

The aim of the Land and Survey Department is to ensure that rights to land are fully investigated and then protected by registration. The manner in which rights may be acquired is controlled by the various ordinances while general policy is the responsibility of the Governor in Council.

REVIEW OF WORK FOR THE YEAR.

Applications for new land.

Applications for Crown Land for various purposes during the year amounted to a total of 32,669 acres from 6,399 applicants, as compared with 27,157 acres from 5,693 applicants in 1949.

The 1950 applications are classified as follows:—

| <i>Purpose.</i> | | | <i>Acres.</i> | <i>No. of applications.</i> |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Sago | ... | ... | 5,858 | 689 |
| Padi | .. | ... | 6,064 | 1,388 |
| Miscellaneous Food crops | ... | ... | 3,341 | 611 |
| Rubber | ... | ... | 7,282 | 1,271 |
| Coconut | ... | ... | 4,325 | 502 |
| Pepper | ... | ... | 3,327 | 1,084 |
| Ordinary Agricultural | ... | ... | 685 | 145 |
| Fruit and Coffee | ... | ... | 576 | 176 |
| Vegetable | ... | ... | 112 | 34 |
| Building | ... | ... | 150 | 355 |
| Miscellaneous | .. | ... | 112 | 113 |
| Cattle grazing | ... | ... | 837 | 31 |
| Total ... | | | 32,669 | 6,399 |

Applications dealt with.

At the beginning of the year there were 4,683 applications waiting to be dealt with and during the year 5,965 applications were dealt with in the following manner:—

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| (a) Surveyed during the year | ... | 4,436 |
| (b) Applications for land already surveyed | | 396 |
| (c) Applications cancelled, withdrawn or disallowed | ... | 995 |
| (d) Applications for which title issued without survey | ... | 138 |

This left arrears of applications not dealt with at the end of the year of 5,117, an increase in arrears of 434.

Dealings in alienated land.

Some 8,380 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Transfers | ... | 4,035 | Caveats | ... | 251 |
| Charges | ... | 859 | Miscellaneous (i.e. | | |
| Release of Charge | ... | 1,077 | Deeds of Exchanges, | | |
| Sub-leases | ... | 45 | etc.) | ... | 574 |
| Surrender to Crown | | 258 | Power of Attorney or | | |
| Court Orders | ... | 5 | Revocation | ... | 162 |
| Partition Orders | ... | 40 | Transmission by Probate | | |
| Letters of Adminis- | | | Officers in case of | | |
| tration | ... | 370 | small estates | ... | 704 |

Issue of titles for Crown Land.

Some 4,212 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1950, 110,098.

Miscellaneous.

Requests for subdivision of alienated land totalled 458, while miscellaneous inspections of land were 866.

Settlement Operations.

The re-settlement of non-indigenous persons squatting on native farming lands has achieved a good measure of success during the year.

The areas most affected were the Land Dayak lands in the First Division and the Rejang delta farming lands in the Third Division. At the end of 1950 some 487 squatters had been peaceably removed from the former into lands more suitable for their needs, the largest being an area of 1,557 acres at Batu Gong near the 18th Mile Kuching-Serian Road on the north side where lots were laid out for 248 families.

In the Rejang delta a preliminary to the re-settlement scheme was the classification of some 1,600 square miles of potential wet padi land thereby constituting thirty new Mixed Zones in which existing non-indigenous squatters as well as natives would be permitted to obtain registered land rights, and forty Native Areas in which only natives may hold land. Where native claims were greatly in excess of requirements and the formation of Mixed Zones was approved by the Governor in Council it was necessary to compensate by cash payment the native holders of the customary rights after an extensive investigation by survey officers to record claims and determine those which should be accepted for compensation or issue of title as the case may be. During this time Administrative Officers were busy explaining the classification scheme to the natives concerned who accepted the idea and saw the advantage of being able to take out titles to their own land. At the same time they were relieved that official action was being taken to contain the non-indigenous farmers who hitherto had been renting land from them under arrangements which were often disadvantageous to the native.



A view of Kuching river.

Towards the end of the year the investigation was completed and the scheme of classification and settlement received the approval of the Governor in Council. Preparation of titles and payment of compensation is proceeding.

The scheme provides for the settlement of 2,123 Chinese families mostly in the areas they now occupy as squatters except for 743 families who are being moved from the Native Areas to the Mixed Zones. In addition, there is provision in the scheme for the settlement of 877 landless Chinese families from other parts of the country, making a total of 3,000 families being accommodated on land with secure tenure.

Other settlement operations consisted of the transfer to the new register under the Land Settlement Ordinance of 339 lots in the First Division.

Bazaar Development.

The development of large and small bazaars on planned layouts continued to receive attention both in the provision of layouts for new bazaars and the re-planning of old ones. Some 22 layouts were made.

Surveys.

Cadastral surveys comprised some 3,794 miles of prismatic compass boundary surveys and 475 miles of theodolite control.

An important survey completed during the year was the precise traverse along the coast of the Rejang Delta needed to establish fixed points to which surveys in 800 square miles of the flat delta land may be connected.

Air photography for topographical mapping was resumed during the year by the R.A.F. who covered 2,985 sq. miles with new photography and did 1,892 sq. miles of revision photography. Most of this photography was on a scale of 1/25,000 for the standard 1/50,000 topographical sheets. In addition some Forest Strips and town cover on a scale of 1/4,800 was obtained.

The preparation of rough lucigram mosaics for Forestry, Agriculture and Geological Survey purposes covered an additional 8,424 sq. miles.

Material for the production of eleven sheets of the regular 1/50,000 printed map series was sent to the Directorate of Colonial Surveys where compilation from air photos and reproduction by photo lithography will be done.

CHAPTER 13.

Science and Arts.

The Museum during 1950.

The Sarawak Museum was established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886. Under a series of energetic curators it has grown into a fine mixed museum, having the best collection of Dayak art and crafts to be found anywhere. It is the only museum in the four Borneo territories.

It is a great attraction for tourists, being situated in beautiful grounds in the centre of Kuching, and the local people, too, have visited it frequently. Of the 70,000 visitors during 1950 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers are coming in increasing numbers. The two stuffed Orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the stamp collection attract the older visitors.

Unfortunately there are no exhibits of Clouded Leopards, Honey Bears and Rhinoceros. Specimens of the first two have been obtained but await stuffing; Rhinoceros were plentiful in the early decades of this century, but owing to their value as an aphrodisiac to the Chinese, they have been hunted nearly to extinction. It is doubtful whether there were any in Sarawak when a survey was made in 1947, but since then a few have moved in from eastern Borneo, and it is hoped that, as they are now protected by a Game Ordinance, they will soon become established.

Some Chicken.

The prize piece in the live animals section in the museum grounds died in 1950. It was a chick that survived several attacks from a King Cobra, or Hamadryad (*Naia hannah*) also an inhabitant of the menagerie. The King Cobra is rightly regarded as the most vicious and deadly snake in the world. The museum possessed a specimen of six feet long, which was violently aggressive and refused all food other than live snakes. These are not always to be found in Kuching township, so in despair its keepers bought a newly hatched chick

in the market and put it into the cage for the Cobra's breakfast. The Cobra struck at once. The chick, shaken, fluttered and cheeped and recovered. It hopped on the Cobra's back and stayed there. It was left in the cage for 18 hours during which time it was bitten at least five times, probably many more. Then it was with difficulty removed and pensioned off. It grew up into a handsome cock, the only sign of its serpentine experience being a slight displacement of its crop!

A Brunei Gallery.

The Government of Brunei has generously offered to donate a sum of money to the Sarawak Museum for buying and displaying Brunei objects, there being no museum in the state of Brunei. There is already a good Brunei collection in the museum, but the rich and varied art and craft of the Sultanate has largely disappeared without being adequately represented in any collections or publications. There is still time for much to be saved, and to make a gallery in the Sarawak museum which will do justice to the State which once dominated the whole of Borneo and many of the surrounding islands.

Turtles.

The bulky Edible Turtle (*Chelone mydas*) has proved of great value to the Colony during the year. It lays its eggs on three islands in the big bay at the south-west corner of Sarawak. This year the turtle egg industry was put on a new basis and experiments undertaken to conserve the species, to improve the hatch of eggs, and to study methods of rearing young turtles so that they can be put into the sea in such a condition as to resist the attacks of sharks and other fish which normally take the majority of them in the first few minutes of their lives.

Although tens of thousands of eggs were put down in hatcheries, well over two million eggs were sold to the public. Turtle eggs at a few cents each are regarded as a cheap and nutritious form of food, and except during the peak season (July-September) demand far exceeds supply.

The profits of the turtle industry go to a Trust for Malay religious and charitable activities. This year a considerable sum was deducted to buy a 60 horse-power Diesel engined boat, which should improve the development of the industry

in 1951. The boat is named "Burong Rawa", after the black and white Imperial Nutmeg Pigeon which frequents the Turtle Islands (but not the mainland).

Mammals and Birds.

The mammals found in Borneo include the remarkable jumping Tarsier, an early evolutionary relation of man, and the extraordinary Scaly-Ant-Eater or *Pangolin* both of which are represented, somewhat inaccurately, on the current Sarawak stamps.

The bird life of Sarawak is incomparably fascinating, and work has been begun on compiling a comprehensive book on the birds of Borneo, for which there is a crying need. Here we are fortunate in having two Government Officers who are eminent ornithologists, Mr. D. F. Smythies, author of the fine "Birds of Burma" and Mr. Alistair Morrison. In collaboration also with Dr. Gibson-Hill of the Raffles Museum, Singapore and the Curator of the Sarawak Museum, it is hoped to produce a check list on species known and their distribution, and then a fuller volume containing information on habits, songs, nesting, etc., etc. Much of this information is still lacking, and contributions from other observers will be warmly welcome.

During the year several other discoveries of interest have been made or published. The extremely rare Malay Honey-Guide (*Indicator Archipelagicus*) was observed and its behaviour recorded near Tapuh in the First Division. The very beautifully Silver-rumped Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura leucopygialis*), about which nothing was previously known (believed to be found on the mountains) was noticed on the Rejang and subsequently as abundant on the Tinjar in the Fourth Division, and subsequently at Santubong and even on the Museum grounds itself. Nothing is yet known of its nesting habits.

Investigations of the birds' nests caves in the Bau district upriver from Kuching reveals a new puzzle in connection with the remarkable Swiftlets which make the edible birds' nests so highly esteemed as a Chinese delicacy. There appear, at Bau, to be two different Swifts making inedible nests, whereas it was previously thought that there was only one in this part of the world. It is possible that inedible swifts are increasing at the expense of the kinds that make the delicious basis for birds' nest soup.



In the Sarawak Museum : a late but beautiful Chinese jar of the type very highly valued by the Trusan Muruts.

A remarkable discovery by Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History, was a small bird collected on the Museum expedition to the Kelabit country late in 1949. This proved to be a specimen of the Common Wheatear (*Oenanthe*) so familiar as a summer immigrant in England. No bird of this group has ever been recorded in South East Asia. This one was hopping about on some cattle-grazing land outside a Kelabit long-house in the far interior at over 3,000 feet—and behaving just as if it had been in Sussex.

There are probably thousands of species of insects in Sarawak which still have not been collected. During 1950 we were fortunate in receiving an official visit through the courtesy of the Indonesian Government, from Dr. M. A. Lieftinck, Curator of the great Zoological Museum at Bogor in Java. Dr. Lieftinck is an eminent entomologist and he spent nearly a month reviving our large insect collection in the Museum, which suffered considerable neglect during the war years. In this place, there is much scope for the entomologist in Sarawak—or indeed any zoologist interested in the lower groups of animal life in general.

Verse and Songs.

One of the most fascinating activities of Malay culture, both in Brunei and in Sarawak, is the keeping of written records of history and mythology, often in verse form and of great length. Most of these *Silah-Silah* have been lost in recent years, largely owing to the disinterest of the younger generation. But quite a number have been retrieved and are gradually being translated. The manuscripts are now in appalling condition; they are written in archaic scripts and archaic forms of Malay; it is difficult to translate them into intelligible Romanised Malay, which has to be rendered into English, without losing the particular style and tension of the *pantun* singing for which the tales were intended. Here is a simplified fragment taken at random.

Demong spoke then to Sama'on—

“Too swift is your boat, it sweeps to break my limbs.”

Said Sama'on, slowly, “No, my dear brother. I am amazed. There is no difference between tree stumps. Neither between winds.”

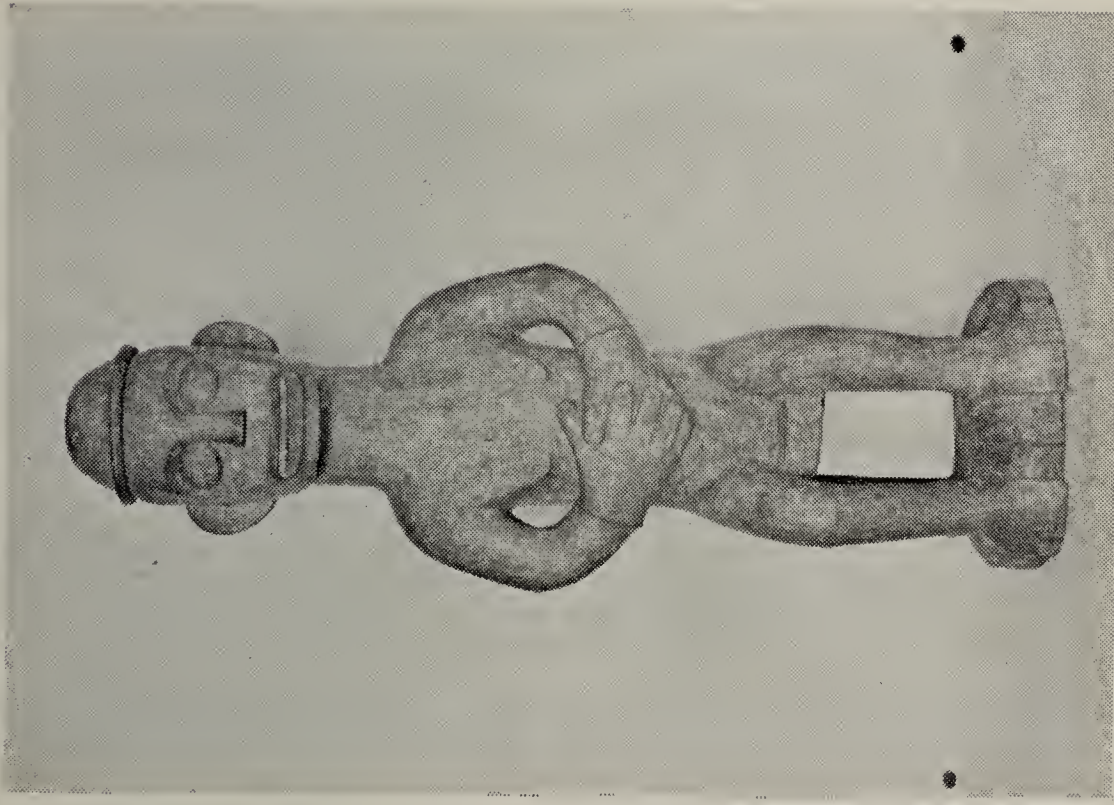
Demong, replying, said, "Once more let us to rowing.
If I am the swifter, far behind you shall follow."

The waves o'er the prow fell as in a storm opening,
sweeping in to the jungle far along Baram, the waves,
mighty and mounting And so on, in rising
crescendo; this one for 1,350 stanzas.

Singing plays a tremendous part in the life of most Sarawak people, especially the Pagans. During 1950 wire recordings of Kelabit, Kayan, Kenyah and other songs were made. Preliminary specimens processed by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London are satisfactory for gramophone use. These songs, like the Malay ones, usually refer to historical and legendary events, often in immense detail. But there is more variety and individuality, less stylisation than in the *pantun*. Each has its own separate original tempo, which with the song's own gathering momentum becomes absorbing and moving. Some Kelabit songs which the Museum Research Assistant has written down in full, take several whole nights to perform and describe the whole Pantheon of warriors, spirits and gods.

Native Arts.

During June-July 1950, a Museum expedition was made into the headwaters of the Tinjar. The main objects of this trip were to collect ethnological information and specimens of native arts, and to prepare for and further expedition in 1951 when it is hoped to visit the still unexplored section between the headwaters of the Tinjar and the Plieran branch of the Rejang. The small relic of Berawan and Sebop craftsmen still practising on the Tinjar are superb artists in design; bottle stoppers, small human figures, made in bone or hardwood, decorated planks, decorations for poles of houses, and the prows of canoes. Every attempt was made on this trip to encourage the continuation of this work and to arrange for the best of it to be purchased for the Sarawak Museum and for exchange with other museums. Unfortunately, the poor rice harvest on the Tinjar in 1950 gave the people unusual difficulties in obtaining food and correspondingly little spare-time for the very labourious work of fine crafting. Some of the best available from here and other parts of the Colony has been sent to the Imperial Institute in connection with the Festival of Britain.



Berawan wood carving of a female figure, from the Tinjar River, in fine red wood.



Berawan pole carving from the Tinjar River. The Berawans are the finest wood carvers in Sarawak.

The trend of decline in native crafts is general, including the beautiful bamboo work done by the Land-Dayak on the Sadong, and the Ibans' weaving of blankets and clothes. The Balau branch of the Sea-Dayaks of the Second Division have almost lost their old songs and dances, with nothing much to replace them. A visit to this area was paid by the Curator in company with Mr. Felix Topolski, well-known painter and cartoonist. With a certain amount of difficulty, old head and fertility dances were revived for the occasion—many of the younger people had never seen them before. Mr. Topolski made a large number of sketches of these and other aspects of Balau life, and he has incorporated some of the results in the great panel he has prepared for the Festival of Britain. Two of the main reasons for the decline of some of the most dynamic and attractive aspects of the old culture are the rapid spread of education and boom in the price of rubber. There is a tendency for some of the newly literate to regard as absurd all their pre-literate beliefs, but the new literacy has brought some advantages, even to the preserving of culture. A young Saribas Dayak has been working industriously collecting and writing down the old series of genealogies of his people and has produced an imposing report.

Archaeological Surveys.

The new enterprise started by the Sarawak Government and assisted by the Carnegie Foundation (through Mr. M. W. F. Tweedie) was the beginning of an Archaeological Survey in Sarawak. Two sites were selected for preliminary excavation.

The first of these was at Santubong, at the mouth of the Sarawak River. Here are evidences of a site of early Hindu occupation, associated with a considerable iron industry and with the import of Chinese and Siamese porcelain on a large scale. The total distance within which there is proof of this industry extends for more than two miles. So far a series of trial areas of land have been dug, yielding very rich returns in every case. During 1951 more detailed excavation of one selected spot will be made.

The other area selected was in the limestone caves around Bau about twenty miles inland from Kuching. Here the material is of a different character, with huge heaps of river shells which have been transported by men from the plain

below, sometimes up into caves which require rock-climbing skill to reach them. Similar shell deposits are found in Malaya and elsewhere and are associated with the neolithic period of stone age occupation. At Bau, excavation was carried on with a statistical basis, for the first time in this sort of work in South East Asia. The work will be continued in 1951. What sort of implements were used by early man in Borneo, and how did early man reach Borneo? Did Java man—one of the earliest forms known, occupy this island? Several hundreds of stone implements have been collected in Sarawak during the past year, some of them of beauty and of types previously unknown in this part of the world. But these are in the hands of native peoples and have been passed down from father to son for generations. They are regarded as thunderbolts, having magical qualities of high order. So far, none of these have been found in excavation site where they can be related to sequences of occupation. There is some reason to think that further research in Sarawak may establish that the sequences of early cultures in South East Asia differs considerably from that at present generally accepted by archaeologists, who, in the absence of data, have made up general theories which include Borneo. Unfortunately, so far Borneo does not seem to want to fit into the theories.

The Serus.

A special study was made during 1950 of the last remaining numbers of the once powerful pagan group called Serus. One of the three principal informants, Gunggu, died during the course of study, which aims to reconstruct the amazing and bloody tale of how these people were exterminated—to a large degree through their own depraved way of life and passion for head-hunting. The Serus once numbered many thousands and inhabited the Saratok District. Nothing remains of which we can certainly attribute to their material culture, although there were still several hundreds of them during the early life of the Sarawak Museum, Chula (see plate), the senior surviving Seru, has also provided an autobiography which can only be described as fascinating. He has been almost everything in Sarawak, from a rice-cultivator to a trader in old jars, and servant to several famous characters, one of whom took him on a trip to the United States. His slant on the world has something unique in it.



Bottle stopper carved from deer-horn
by a Berawan craftsman from the
Tinjar River.



A man's hairpin, made of buffalo-
horn from the headwaters of the
Baram River.

The Museum's regular Kelabit studies have been continued on a reduced scale in 1950 and will be resumed more actively in 1951. The Kelabits are the group of people inhabiting the rich uplands of the far interior, with their own system of irrigation, numerous cattle, and valuable salt-springs which make this remote area tenable to a well-organised society.

Archives.

Linked with the attempt to reconstruct the past by archaeological research, in 1950 an Archives Section was established in the Museum. At present it is only beginning to sort and index the mass of material from the Brooke files, from outstations, court books and upriver travel diaries. Complete files of local publications are now being kept under the Printers' and Publishers' Ordinance enacted in 1950. At the same time the Reference Library of Borneo and South-east Asia books has been much improved, though there are still important gaps to be filled.

The Museum Journal.

Owing the paper supply difficulties, only one issue of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* was published during 1950. The second issue was prepared but is not yet distributed. It contains a wealth of material on natural history and human subjects, including papers by Land and Sea Dayaks, Malays, Bajau, Dusun, contributions from Government Officers and missionaries from Ivor H. N. Evans, doyen of Asian ethnologists, Mr. M. W. F. Tweedie and Dr. Gibson-Hill of Raffles Museum, Mr. R. E. Holttum, Singapore Botanical Gardens, Dr. K. H. Vouss of the Amsterdam Museum, Mr. Breuning of the Natural History Museum, Paris, and so on. The Museum Journal clearly fills a need in publishing authenticated and original studies of Sarawak. In view of the absence of a similar journal elsewhere in Borneo, contributions relevant to Borneo as a whole have been and will be welcome.

The next issue includes two original studies by Dayaks. The journal is exchanged for publications of other institutions all over the world, notably in Western Europe, North America and Australia, also in countries such as Poland, Argentina, Kenya, Rhodesia, Japan, and extensively in India, Pakistan and Indonesia.

PART III

CHAPTER 1.

Geography.

General description.

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Geology.

Sarawak occupies an important position in the make-up of the island chains of South-East Asia, its mountain arc of ancient rocks being essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving north-west. In the extreme west of Sarawak there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-north-east in common with the Malayan regional strike.

Sarawak can be subdivided provisionally into three geological areas, reflecting the broad geographical divisions into interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of mesozoic and upper palaeozoic rocks. It appears to consist mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllite, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, quartzite and igneous intrusions.

Tertiary sediments are best exposed in the undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur and some of the beds are petroliferous. The tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both the oil and most of the coal.

Pleistocene and recent deposits form the low-lying coastal tracts; these are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of the areas are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat to unconsolidated sands and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediments inland representing river and lake accumulations.

Igneous rocks occur, and the formation of mineral deposits such as gold, antimony and mercury appears to be genetically related to the igneous activity. However, neither the igneous

intrusions nor the mineral deposits have been mapped or systematically investigated, and their exact relationships are uncertain.

Vegetation.

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers.

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological.

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.



Kenyah girl and baby. The much elongated ears will grow longer yet as more and more weights are gradually added.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 157.26 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 18.45 inches in October and the minimum 8.30 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Principal Towns.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita, the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, large Malay riverside *kampongs* and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses, lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a

a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.



A typical village landing place and bathing pool on the Akar River.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had

been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

CHAPTER 3.

Administration.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases.

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war, however, the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. During the past year eleven new Authorities have been constituted, and there are now sixteen Local Authorities in all. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, and this seems inevitable at present if any progress is to be made. There are, however,



Temonggong Tama Weng Ajong, M.B.E., at his rice farm at Long Akar, Baram River. A Kenyah himself, he is the leading chief of all northern inland pagans and Christians. He is a Roman Catholic.

encouraging signs of co-operation between the various races in certain parts of the country. In Limbang Malays, Chinese, Kedayans, Muruts and Indians participate in the same Authority; a mixed Malay and Dayak Authority has been formed at Lundu in the First Division; and a mixed Malay, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak Authority was about to be launched at Serian at the end of the year. At the beginning of 1950 no less than 195,000 persons were living within the sphere of a Local Authority.

The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

While the standard of efficiency between one Authority and another has differed widely, they have in general shown ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them. Education has been a subject in which they have shown the greatest interest, and some of them have been quick to appreciate that increased expenditure can generally be met only by increased taxation.

CHAPTER 4.

Weights and Measures.

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Tahl | = $1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs. |
| 1 Kati (16 tahils) | = $1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. |
| 1 Pikul (100 katis) | = $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. |
| 1 Koyan (40 pikuls) | = $5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. |
| 1 Chhun | = 1.19/40 inches. |
| 10 Chhuns | = 1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches. |
| 1 Panchang | = 108 stacked cubic feet. |

CHAPTER 5.

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- The Chung Hua Journal, Kuching (Daily) (Chinese).
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- The Chiau Sheng Pau (Daily) Sibul (Chinese).
- The Current Critic, Kuching (Bi-weekly) (Chinese).
- The Utusan Sarawak, Kuching (Weekly) (Malay).
- The Sarawak Gazette, Kuching (Monthly) (English).
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- Pembrita (Monthly) (Iban).

CHAPTER 6.

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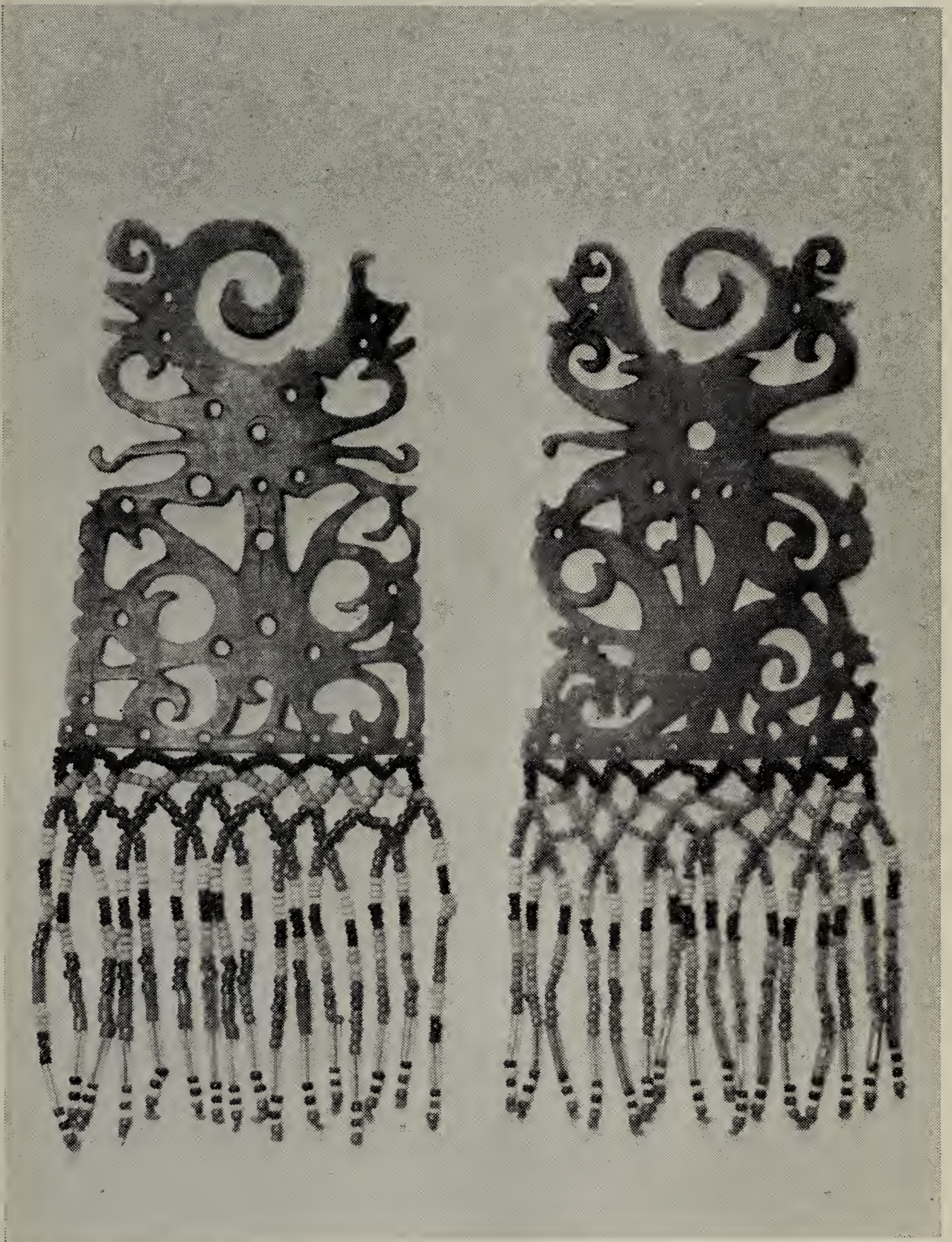
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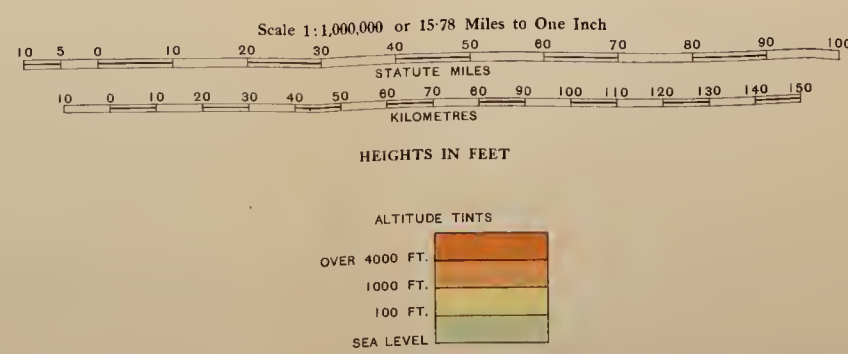
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| LEGEND | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Road: Main | River: Surveyed |
| Road: Secondary | River: Unsurveyed |
| Footpath | Swamp |
| Railway: Single Track | Depth Line: 10 Fathoms |
| Headquarters: Division | Heights |
| Headquarters: District | Contours: Approximate |
| Other Towns | Sandbank |
| Boundary: International | W/T Stations |
| Boundary: Division | Telephone Lines |
| Boundary: District | Airfields |
| Lighthouse | |



| GLOSSARY | |
|----------|--|
| Bukit | Hill |
| Batang | Main River |
| Gunong | Mountain |
| Kuala | Mouth of River |
| Loagan | Ox-bow; Abandoned Reach of River, or sometimes Swampy Lake |
| Muara | Mouth of River |
| Pulau | Island |
| Sungei | River |
| Tanjong | Cape |
| Ulu | Headwaters |

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